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SUPERBAD

EVERY HERO NEEDS A NEMESIS. THESE REAL-LIFE SUPER VILLAINS KEEP THE SUPERHEROES HONEST PAGES 20-21

VANCOUVER metro®

Thursday, April 26, 2012

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MINT IN MOTION

Rick Hansen takes a peek at the new Royal Canadian Mint collectible coin that celebrates the 25th anniversary of his Man in Motion tour. Story, page 3.
MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

Keep Dr. Seuss out of slogans: School admin

Teachers' dispute. Quote from Yertle the Turtle said to be too political for students

A quote from a Dr. Seuss book about a turtle trying to assert his rights is too political for students who shouldn't be caught in the middle of the current teachers' dispute, says a school administrator in Prince Rupert.

Dave Stigant, acting director of instruction for the local school district, said Wednesday he vetoed a quote from Yertle the Turtle when a teacher asked him to look at about 20 quotes to determine if they would be appropriate to expose students to during the ongoing labour dispute. The quote was: "I know up on top you are seeing great sights, but down here on the bottom, we too should have rights."

Stigant said he doesn't care if the quote or the whole book is used in a classroom, but it's not OK for teachers to wear political slogans on buttons or T-shirts or display them in their cars on school property.

He said the teacher who asked about the quote wanted to meet with him after she was directed to stop wearing buttons bearing political slogans or having any related placards at school.

"This is simply an attempt to make the district look absurd," Stigant said, calling the Yertle the Turtle issue a red herring. "It has nothing to do with Yertle the Turtle. It has to do with the (B.C. Teachers' Federation) protesting Bill 22 and undertaking a year of resistance."

Bill 22, which came into effect in March, ended a protracted strike as the government appointed a mediator to work on a new contract with the teachers' union after its members staged a three-day strike following limited job action since last September.

Joanna Larson, president of the Prince Rupert local of the B.C. Teachers' Federation, said the district's stance is ridiculous and oppressive. "It's not even just limiting the teachers' right to freedom of expression," she said. "It limits students' access to the world around them and what's going on in current events. And I think that's the purpose of public school, to educate and use what's happening around them as teachable moments." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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HONDA

Brick city

LEGO marks opening with 'droid' statue

To celebrate B.C.'s first LEGO Store, opening in Oakridge Centre, the block-building company will hold a grand opening ceremony May 4 to 6.

LEGO master builder Erik Varszegi, with plenty of help from volunteers, will build an eight-foot-tall LEGO statue of the famed Star Wars robot R2-D2.

The event will be held in the West Galleria of Oakridge Centre.

GRAHAM TEMPLETON/FOR METRO

Boss Energy

Mining company payout was 'fair,' premier says

The B.C. Liberals are denying a claim by the B.C. NDP that the government paid an extra $21 million in a settlement with mining company Boss Energy, to conceal wrongdoing.

The settlement came as a result of a 2008 ban on uranium mining, and the NDP say the payout should have been $8 million.

The NDP says the final payout of roughly $30 million is an attempt to avoid having to "go into court and be open."

Premier Christy Clark told CBC that "the criminal justice branch decided ($30 million) was fair compensation."

Mining Minister Rich Coleman added that the government's legal counsel advised that a lawsuit could have cost the government as much as $50 million.

GRAHAM TEMPLETON/FOR METRO/ WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

Designers Chris Reid and Rosina Li chat with Rick Hansen at the unveiling on Wednesday of the 25th-anniversary Man in Motion commemorative coin at Vancouver's Royal Canadian Mint store. MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

Man in Motion tour etched in silver

Around the world in a wheelchair. Coin commemorates 25th anniversary of Rick Hansen's achievement

MATT KIELTYKA
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All the energy and emotion of the Man in Motion tour has been captured in silver.

Rick Hansen was at the Royal Canadian Mint boutique in downtown Vancouver on Wednesday for the unveiling of a collectible silver coin to commemorate the 25th anniversary of his wheelchair journey around the world.

"What an incredible honour," Hansen said, on the home stretch of another world tour to mark the anniversary. "It's the strength of the country believing in me and pushing me forward. I hope it also helps create more awareness."

Hansen has seen some of the changes he set in motion first-hand, while taking part in a nostalgia-filled 25th-anniversary trip.

"One of the greatest things about the 25th is you get to see how far we've come in the world," he said. "We were entering a conversation about making the world more accessible and inclusive for people with disabilities and (talking about) a cure for spinal-cord injuries. Now we see people starting to walk away after their injuries ... and have a chance to live a better life."

Nowhere has that been more apparent than in China. When Hansen first visited the country, the idea of a disabled person being more than a "shut-in" was "revolutionary."

Now Hansen says there are human-rights laws protecting disabled people in China, and society there is generally more accessible for the handicapped.

"Plus, having a chance to go back to the Great Wall and now it's wheelchair-accessible — what an incredible symbol of progress."

Hansen's trailblazing tour has inspired generations of Canadians, including the lucky few who met him in person on Wednesday. Among them were Chris Reid and Rosina Li, who designed the coin.

"We're just star-struck," Reid said. "We don't know how else to feel but in awe. The more we researched (Hansen's legacy), the more nervous we got because we started to see the scope of what he has accomplished."

"We grew up with him," Li said. "This coin captures everything he has done, so for him to select our design, we're so honoured."

The Royal Canadian Mint is selling 7,500 of the 25th-anniversary coins for $69.95 apiece.

The certification cards of the first 100 coins sold at the Vancouver store are signed by Hansen.

Job action. ICBC appeals to labour board as union votes to strike

Police officers, paramedics, firefighters and … ICBC customer-service representatives?

The Labour Relations Board must decide soon whether administrative jobs at the Crown corporation can be classified as "essential services," as the insurance company's dispute with employees heats up.

Jeff Gillies, vice-president of COPE 378, says ICBC has delivered a "heavy hammer blow" to workers with the LRB application just as the union voted 87 per cent in favour of job action.

"We're interested to hear ICBC's argument to the board," Gillies said. "We are not police officers or nurses. We are not on the front lines saving people's lives. We'll have to see what the LRB decides, but we're not looking to put anybody at risk."

ICBC expects the LRB to make a ruling in the next three to four weeks.

Meanwhile, both sides say they look forward to returning to the negotiating table on May 9 and 10.

The union — made up mostly of administrative workers — has been without a contract since 2010 and is seeking a 10 per cent raise along with improvements to workload and job security.

ICBC is handcuffed by the government's net-zero mandate to all public-sector employees, but Gillies says the corporation is taking advantage of the mandate by offering a longer-term five-year deal.

Although the union has a strike mandate, Gillies said there won't be any job action for a while. "It depends on what happens at the bargaining table. We're hopeful we can reach a deal," he said.

Even if a strike does happen, the union says it hopes to pressure ICBC and the government with as little impact on customers as possible.

MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

Sawmills. Beetle fingered for blame in fatal blasts

The pine beetle is emerging as a prime suspect in the deadly explosions of two B.C. sawmills over the past three months.

Workplace-safety officials have been cautious about saying the explosions in Prince George and Burns Lake could have been caused because the process of milling beetle-ravaged wood might be somehow more combustible.

But on Wednesday, industry, government and union leaders agreed the first step in preventing another explosion involves scrutinizing the role the dry timber may play in the sawdust buildup that appears to be a common denominator in both catastrophes.

"It's basically the challenge of responding to the mountain pine beetle," said John Allen, president of the Council of Forest Industries, which represents more than 50 B.C. sawmills.

The industry has been sawing dead wood for three decades, but two massive mill explosions in such a short time frame mean something is different and must be investigated, union official Steve Hunt said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

1 NEWS

On the web

He be jammin'

Barack Obama hit the late-night TV circuit (to mixed reviews). Watch Obama slow-jam a stump speech with Jimmy Fallon at metronews.ca

Screeners cashing in?

U.S. Transportation Security Administration screeners accused of taking bribes to allow drugs through Los Angeles airport have been charged in a corruption probe. A 22-count indictment unsealed Wednesday outlined five incidents in which the employees allegedly took up to $2,400 to provide drug couriers unfettered access at LAX. Full story at metronews.ca

Mobile news

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Brazil, Italy, Vietnam to light up English Bay

Newcomers. It will be Vietnam's first showing at Celebration of Light, while Honda becomes new title sponsor

KATE WEBB
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Everything's coming up roses once again for one of Vancouver's largest and at times endangered summer events, the Celebration of Light.

The Vancouver Fireworks Festival Society announced Wednesday it has signed Honda as its new title sponsor for the next three years. This year's three-night spectacular will feature dazzling shows by Brazil, Italy and, for something completely different, Vietnam.

"Vietnam, this is the first time they've ever gone outside their own country to do this, and yet they've got a great reputation for fireworks, so I understand they're just thrilled," said former MP John Reynolds, who chairs the volunteer-run festival society.

He said Brazil is well-known for its pyrotechnic displays, particularly its New Year's Eve show over Rio de Janeiro's famous harbour.

"And of course we have a very large Italian population … and we've met with the Italian consul directly," he added. "I've met with a number of leading Italians in the Italian community, and they're going to make this a big event for Italy also."

Things haven't always been so rosy for the festival's organizers. In 2009 the society announced it was cancelling the event due to a funding shortfall, and that wasn't the first time things had looked so dire.

"Every year up until now since I've been involved it's always been scurrying around at the last minute to find a few more donors to make sure we cover all the bills, but having lead sponsors like The Keg and Concord (Pacific) and now Honda makes it a lot easier to talk to other people," Reynolds said.

This year's Celebration of Light will ignite the skies over English Bay July 28, Aug. 1 and Aug. 4, and is expected to draw up to 300,000 spectators to the shores each night.

The Celebration of Light in 2010. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/FOR METRO

Beer garden, more paid seating requested

Celebration of Light in 2011. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/FOR METRO

Organizers of Vancouver's Honda Celebration of Light want to open a 500-person beer garden at Sunset Beach and increase the amount of paid seating by a third.

The proposed licensed area would be open in the afternoon during the three days of the mid-summer fireworks festival and would close by 6 p.m., four hours before the start of fireworks.

"It's really not just a beer garden," said Andrea Dowd-Dever, a producer with brand.LIVE. "It's part of the overall cultural showcase at Sunset Beach that we're trying to expand the festival into."

Parks commissioner Aaron Jasper said he wasn't too concerned about the proposed licensed area and thinks people would be open to it if it helps makes the fireworks event financially sustainable.

The proposal, which will be brought to the park board on Monday, also includes plans to increase the capacity of the licensed viewing area atop the bathhouse roof and would transform Sunset Beach with a music stage, concession stands, a volleyball tournament and cultural showcases by the presenting nations — Italy, Vietnam and Brazil.

Last year, as part of efforts to improve the financial sustainability of the festival, organizers brought in reserved bleacher seating for 1,000 people adjacent the English Bay bathhouse.

The reserved seating sold out for all three nights, netting $30,000 for the Fireworks Society.

This year organizers hope to expand the size of the bleachers by a third, to 1,500 seats, and expand by 200 people the size of the licensed viewing area atop the English Bay bathhouse.

"It gives a bit of a revenue boost to the society, but ultimately it's about expanding the experience for people who do come down and giving them a couple of alternatives."

JEFF HODSON/METRO

Robert Pickton inquiry

Ex-cop defends handling of case

A former inspector with the Vancouver police sparred with a lawyer at the Robert Pickton inquiry in Vancouver Wednesday over how the officer handled the missing-women case.

Fred Biddlecombe, who was in charge of the Vancouver police force's major crime unit in the late 1990s, has faced criticism that he ignored warnings from officers that a serial killer was preying on sex workers. Instead, he assigned officers to investigate other theories, including checking burial records.

Jason Gratl, a lawyer representing residents of Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, called the move a wild-goose chase, but Biddlecombe said it was an investigative lead that had to be followed up.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Special council

Municipal AG search begins

The first step has been taken to get a municipal auditor general in place in B.C.

The provincial government has appointed five people to a special council that will oversee the search for candidates for the auditor's job.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Public input

Consultations to modernize justice system begin

The B.C. government launched consultations Wednesday on the future of policing in the province.

The first roundtable session is being held in Victoria as the government seeks advice from community leaders, police and other experts on issues ranging from gang and gun violence to crime prevention.

Members of the public can offer their ideas on a blog, where a draft of the new policing plan will be posted in the fall for more feedback.

Justice Minister Shirley Bond says the consultations are aimed at modernizing the justice system and making it more open and responsive to the public.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

North Okanagan

Mudslide pours debris into Shuswap

A nearly kilometre-long mudslide in the North Okanagan barely missed a home and poured debris into the Shuswap River Wednesday. The torrent of rock, muck and trees came down about 12 km north of Cherryville, changing the flow of a nearby creek.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

METRO CUSTOM PUBLISHING PRESENTED BY SCOTIABANK

HOW A CREDIT CARD CAN HELP NEWLYWEDS FURNISH THEIR FIRST HOME

NEWLYWEDS

Ali and Fatima, both 29, are newlyweds living in Ottawa. In the fall, they used their wedding gift money to put a substantial down payment on a bungalow in the Elmvale Acres area of the city. The house has a small yard, an unfinished basement and "tons of potential," says Ali, who intends to finish it himself.

The couple is in good financial shape. Ali has a government job downtown while Fatima works for an association. Their combined annual income is $80,000.

They have a budget they can live with and their debt is manageable — along with the mortgage, Ali's student loan will be paid off in five years and their car is leased. What also helps is they receive financial help periodically from Ali's parents who live nearby.

Ali and Fatima are having fun furnishing their house, and they have an eye on the future too — children, a bigger house and "definitely, annual vacations south," says Fatima.

The couple has a *Scotia Momentum*® VISA* cash back credit card, which they use for as many of their monthly purchases as possible. In fact, they just bought a new big screen TV and put the purchase on their card, earning them some valuable cash back.

The card gives Ali and Fatima 2 per cent cash back on everyday spending such as gas, groceries, drugstore items, and recurring bill payments, and 1 per cent cash back on all other eligible purchases. The cash back lump sum is automatically deposited into their savings account every November. While the *Scotia Momentum*® VISA card has a nominal annual fee of $39, its cash back earnings is more than worth it, says Fatima.

Their card has a $5,000 credit limit, and they try to pay off the balance every month because they like to have the credit available "just in case," says Ali. Their card also comes with tons of other features and benefits, such as Purchase Security and Extended Warranty Protection, that give the couple peace of mind when paying by credit card.

Scotia Momentum® Cash Back Calculator

Ali and Fatima's profile:

Ali and Fatima use their *Scotia Momentum*® VISA* card to pay for about $1,200 worth of purchases a month. Some fixed costs, such as their property taxes, are not payable by credit card and therefore not included in these calculations.

	$0 — 300 — 600	
Grocery Store		$ 240
Gas Station		$ 150
Drug Store		$ 110
Recurring Bills		$ 120
Other		$ 580
	Total Monthly	**$ 1,200**

Ali and Fatima's Estimated Annual *Scotia Momentum*® Cash Back

Ali and Fatima have a *Scotia Momentum*® VISA card (the card below on the left). Here's a look at the cash back their purchases add up to with their card — and a comparison with what their cash back would add up to if they had the *Scotia Momentum*® No-Fee VISA card (the card on the right).

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2%	$ 148.80	
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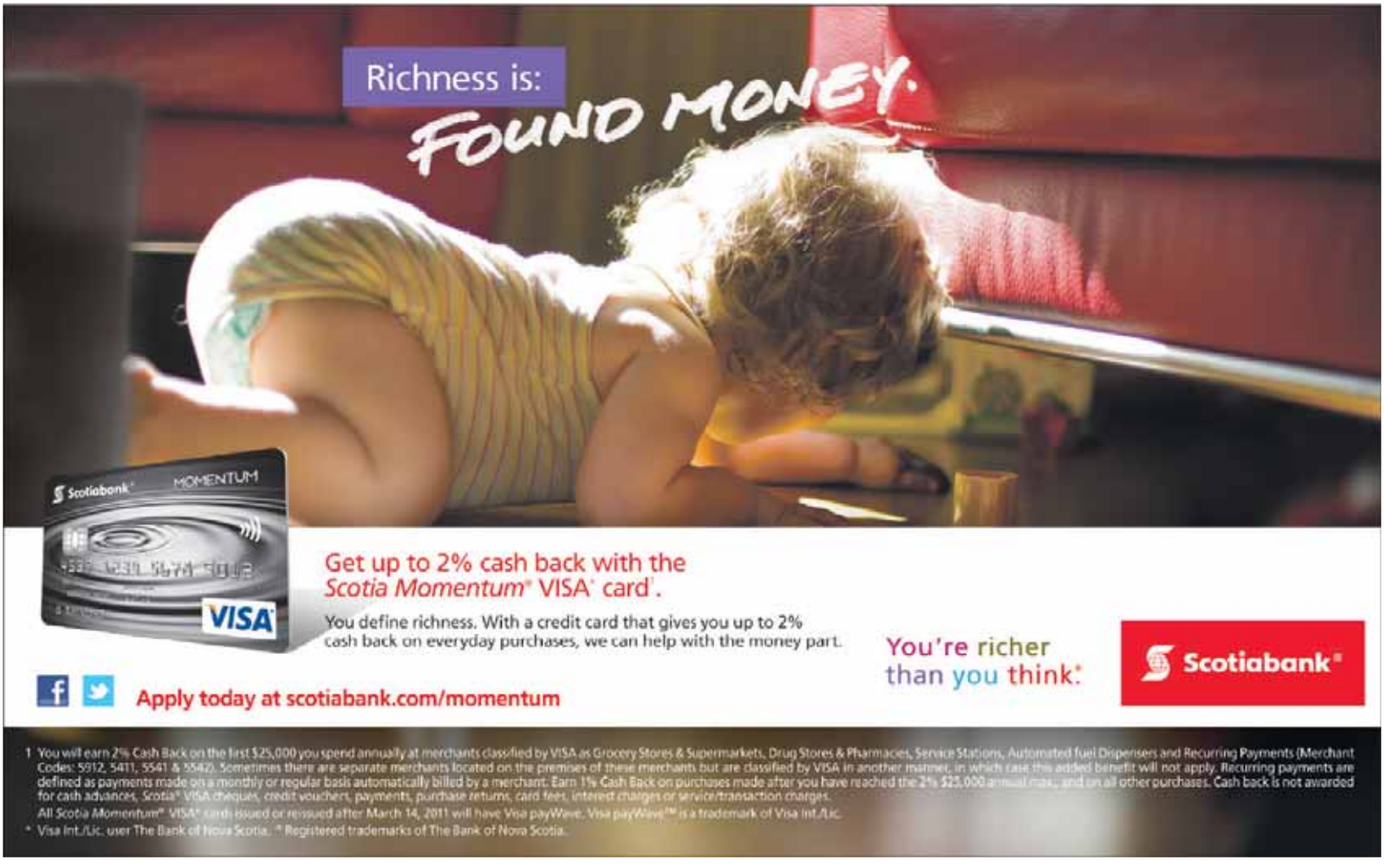
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Hundreds of shoe shoppers packed into the Vancouver Army & Navy store Wednesday morning for the 63rd annual Legendary Shoe Sale

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS
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1

1 Shoeholics unite

More than 200 shoppers lined up as early as 4 a.m. to snap up bargains, with 100,000 pairs of shoes sold at $40 or less.

2 Get pumped

Jacqui Cohen, president and CEO of Army & Navy, says they're happy to put smiles on people's faces.

2

Head over heels for sweet deals

3

"If the shoe fits, buy it." That was Su Chun's motto for the day — it was emblazoned on her T-shirt — as she navigated her way through the Size 6 racks at the annual Army & Navy shoe sale.

Chun, a self-confessed shoeholic, has been the first person in line for eight years and had hired a personal assistant service to hold the front spot for her at 4 a.m. Wednesday.

She took the morning off to snag designer shoes for less.

"My boss knows that I'm here every year," she said. "I'm back at work at 10 a.m."

She said she keeps coming back because she never knows what she'll find.

"One year I bought a pair of booties, and when I took off the Army & Navy tag, they were $1,100. So when you find shoes like that for under $40, it's reason to keep coming back super early in the morning," she said.

Chun went home with 14 pairs of shoes, four more pairs than she purchased last year. Among her purchases was a pair of sparkly blue Betsey Johnson high heels and lots of work shoes.

"Because a girl can never have too much snakeskin," she said with a smile.

Some lucky shoppers brought home pairs from Coach and Giuseppe Zanotti, which retail for up to $800.

Jacqui Cohen, president and CEO of Army & Navy, said 200 women stood in pouring rain early in the morning because of the great deals.

"Nothing on my floor is over $40," she said. "People are walking away with 20 to 30 pairs of shoes because, let's face it, at that price, you could afford to buy lots. We're thrilled to be able to put smiles on so many faces."

4

3 Diamonds in the rough

Su Chun has held the front spot for the last eight years. She says she usually goes home with at least 10 pairs of shoes every time.

4 First in line

Scattered among the designer shoes were a few pairs of Coach and Giuseppe Zanotti shoes, which are usually worth $800.

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Motion. Carr calls for smart-meter opt-out

Green City Coun. Adriane Carr wants Vancouverites to have a smart-meter opt-out option.

Carr said the motion she seeks to address concerns some Vancouver residents have voiced about the costs and health effects of the controversial smart meters. "People have complained about headaches, not being able to sleep well at night," Carr said. "Some people had concerns about their pets being affected. These would be effects felt most in rooms that are adjacent to where the wireless smart meters are on the outside walls."

She wants people be given the choice between an analogue meter and a smart meter. She said she also would like to see BC Hydro look into the option of other smart-grid technologies, which do not emit radio emissions like the ones used in some European countries. She said if Vancouver joins other municipalities like Burnaby and Surrey in urging to make smart meters optional that BC Hydro will be forced to make changes.

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

Rising water levels

Flooding prompts evacuation alerts in 2 communities

Evacuation alerts have been issued in two southern B.C. communities because of spring flooding.

In Kimberley, several homes were flooded when two creeks overflowed, and residents have taken refuge at the city's curling club.

Water levels have receded slightly, and crews have sandbagged the area while they try to pump the water out.

A second evacuation order covers the community of Tulameen north of Princeton, where residents are being told to be ready to leave due to rising ground water amid the spring thaw.

Dave Campbell of the B.C. River Forecast Centre says recent hot weather in parts of the southern Interior and Kootenays has accelerated the snow melt in mid to low-level elevations.

The centre says rain in the forecast will keep stream levels high through Friday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Overpopulation

Another deer cull approved in Cranbrook

A second deer cull has been approved in Cranbrook.

Councillors in the southeastern B.C. city have given the go-ahead for removal of up to 50 deer after a report showed an increase in mule deer and elk within city limits.

Latest stats show 121 deer and 11 elk have moved into town. A date for the cull has not been set, but $15,000 has been budgeted for the work.

Kimberley, Invermere and Penticton approved similar culls after residents reported they had been chased and pets had been attacked by aggressive deer.

RCMP were called to investigate in Invermere last month after a contractor hired to corral and shoot the deer reported someone was releasing the animals from traps and opponents of the cull had confronted him and followed him in their cars.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bills. No more utility costs in Olympic Village: Carr

Adriane Carr wants the city to ensure that the low-income residents in Vancouver's Olympic Village do not shoulder additional utility costs.

"Those people occupying the social housing are being billed extra for the district energy utility," said Carr, who will introduce a motion that seeks to prevent additional utilities billing to the social housing tenants. "That billing should be added into whatever other billings they pay and the rent and come to no more than 30 per cent of their income. And that's not the case," she added.

The city has been covering the hot water and heating bills for 160 renters in two social-housing buildings in the Olympic Village since March 2011, after residents complained about getting unexpected utility bills from energy company called Enerpro. Residents will be expected to pick up their own tab after June.

"Tenants are feeling incredibly anxious that after June they are going to have to pay those extra costs for the district energy utility bills," she said.

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

Vancouver pundit and cartoonist J.J. McCullough showcases his political caricatures in Japan. CONTRIBUTED

Cartoonist launches his guide to Canada

Online tool. Website sums up Canada's history, geography, politics, culture and symbols dozens of articles

For your reference

"I'm trying to create something substantial that can be an alternative form of reference material."

J.J. McCullough, cartoonist and creator of J.J.'s Complete Guide to Canada on the purpose of his creating a the website TheCanadaGuide.com

GRAHAM TEMPLETON
vancouver@metronews.ca

In the days of inscrutable names like Tumblr and Kijiji, it's refreshing to see a new website put it all in the title: J.J.'s Complete Guide to Canada.

Vancouver pundit and political cartoonist J.J. McCullough has spent the last several years researching and writing TheCanadaGuide.com, which launched this week.

"I set out to make the most comprehensive, useful online guide to Canada that exists," McCullough said.

It's certainly got the breadth covered: the site tackles Canada's history, geography and politics; its culture and symbols; its food and government.

In total, the mammoth guide is composed of more than 50 articles and almost 70,000 words

"The tragedy of the Internet," said McCullough, "is that Wikipedia has become the one-stop shop for information. I'm trying to create something substantial that can be an alternative form of reference material."

The guide shows how a bill becomes a law and where poutine came from. It gives a history of bilingualism and a list of every party leader in history. It shows which celebs are Canadian and how hockey dominates our culture. If it's about Canada, it's probably in the Canada Guide.

The guide was designed to be useful to Canadians, foreigners and new immigrants. It aims to teach the world about Canada, and Canadians more about themselves.

"I'm most excited about continuing the discussion," McCullough said. "I'm the author, I'm available for feedback, and I want the guide to evolve over time so it stays the most complete, accurate guide there is."

Re-evaluate parking-site reserve fund: Affleck

In the wake of what he calls "dishonest" use of taxpayer money, Vancouver NPA Coun. George Affleck will ask council to vote Tuesday to re-evaluate the city's $28-million parking-site reserve fund.

On April 17, council voted to transfer $1 million from the fund — for construction and maintenance of parking facilities — to the creation of a greenest city fund, which aims to help Vancouver become the world's greenest city by 2020.

Affleck calls this move "dishonest to Vancouver taxpayers." "If money is collected for one thing," he said Wednesday, "it shouldn't be used for another." NPA councillors Affleck and Elizabeth Ball cast the only votes against the April 17 motion.

Vision Vancouver Coun. Andrea Reimer dismissed Affleck's claim that Vancouver has a policy to disburse funds for the reason they are collected.

"I'd be interested to see that policy," she said Wednesday. "Council has discretion to allocate funds as it sees fit."

Reimer said that Vancouver is well above parking capacity as it is, calling the parking-site reserve fund the city's "most stagnant" — the same reason given in the original motion for taking money from the parking fund.

Affleck said that his new motion, if passed, will increase accountability in the use of tax dollars. "I hope I get support from my fellow councillors, Vision councillors," he said. "If they don't vote in favour of this motion, I think it's a vote against an open and transparent government."

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Canadian's ashes sent to South Korea for burial

Reunited in death. Two brothers fought in Korean War, with one dying in battle in 1951 and a second dying in 2011

Korean War veterans from Canada pay their respects Tuesday during a ceremony in Busan, South Korea. AHN YOUNG-JOON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Back in a country most of them saw for the first time more than half a century ago, about 50 Canadian veterans of the Korean War braved driving rains Wednesday to finally reunite a pair of brothers long since divided by the conflict.

Archibald Hearsey, born in Ignace, Ont., in 1929, had requested in his will that his ashes be returned to Korea and buried next to his older brother Joseph, who died in battle in 1951.

Their remarkable story is one of the Korean War's most powerful tales.

Hearsey died in June of last year. Wednesday's ceremony marked the first time a war veteran's remains were brought back to be buried on South Korean soil.

"They were two small-town boys that were separated by war," said Archibald's daughter, Debbie Kakagamic, who travelled to Korea with her son Solomon to attend the burial ceremony and visit her uncle's grave.

"Now they're together again."

Joseph Hearsey was one of 516 Canadian soldiers who died during the Korean War, which lasted from June 1950 to July 1953.

Canada was one of 16 foreign countries that sent troops, and 26,791 Canadian soldiers fought.

Health problems prevented Archibald Hearsey from ever returning to South Korea to visit his brother's grave at the UN Memorial Cemetery in Busan, where 378 Canadians are buried.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Survey. Southerners worry about opening the North to development

A survey suggests southern Canadians are skeptical about opening the North to development and want to see environmentalists involved in assessing resource projects.

The survey on attitudes about the Arctic, conducted for the Churchill Northern Studies Centre, also suggests most Canadians want to learn more about the region — and may have a romantic view of it that doesn't always correspond to the needs of the people who live there.

"Part of it is the disconnect between the North and the South," said centre director Michael Goodyear, who released the results Wednesday at the International Polar Year Conference in Montreal.

"We do have a definite vision of the romantic North," he said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadians concerned

Respondents were nearly unanimous, 94 per cent, in agreeing that more about the Arctic be taught in school.

- **Over 70 per cent said native hunting grounds should be preserved.**

Quebec tuition hikes

Talks between government, students go bust

For three days, there was a faint sign that Quebec's student unrest might find a peaceful resolution.

Any such hope was dashed Wednesday as talks broke off between the province and Quebec's student groups.

Their three-day attempt at negotiation was a long shot, with the government refusing to back down on tuition hikes and students demanding just that. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ottawa looks to appeal ruling on bawdy houses

Dominatrix Terri-Jean Bedford holds a whip as she leaves a news conference in Toronto in March, after Ontario's top court ruled a ban on brothels is unconstitutional. COLIN PERKEL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada's three main prostitution-control laws appear destined for scrutiny by the country's highest court after the federal government announced Wednesday it wanted to appeal a decision that effectively legalized brothels.

As a result, the lawyer who successfully challenged the ruling on behalf of sex-trade workers said he had no choice but to try to appeal the ruling that also upheld the ban on street prostitution.

In response to a challenge from three sex-trade workers, Ontario's top court last month struck down the ban on bawdy houses on the basis that it increased the dangers prostitutes face because they are forced to work outside.

The five appellate justices also reworded the law against living on the avails of prostitution to clarify it would only apply in cases of exploitation because it could otherwise apply to people such as a prostitute's bodyguards, accountant or receptionist.

In its application to the Supreme Court for leave to appeal, the federal government said the Ontario Court of Appeal judgment creates a "legislative void."

" the application states.

It also has an impact on police and prosecutions, both inside and outside Ontario, the government brief states.

Sex-trade workers, who hailed the Ontario court ruling as a recognition of their rights and said it would enhance their safety, expressed disappointment at Ottawa's decision.

Vancouver sex worker Amy Lebovitch called the federal government disrespectful toward prostitutes.

"We're telling them we need this to be safe and they're saying, 'Too bad'," Lebovitch, 33, said.

Toronto lawyer Alan Young, who acted for Lebovitch and the two other sex-trade workers, noted that six justices have already had their say.

"I'd like to see how the government of Canada gets around two very strong judgments that to me border on being incontrovertible," Young said.

Prostitution itself is not illegal in Canada, though many of the key activities were banned under the three laws considered by the Appeal Court.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

World Cup crash. Family blames negligence in course design for death

Stunning negligence in course design and safety features led to the "entirely avoidable" death of a Canadian skicross racer at a World Cup event in Switzerland last month, his family argued Wednesday.

In calling for a thorough, independent inquiry into the death of Nik Zoricic, his family disputed the official position that he was killed in a "freak" accident.

"The finish line was a death trap," family lawyer Tim Danson alleged.

"It is unacceptable that an elite athlete like Nik Zoricic can make a perfect landing, barely miss the finish line by one metre, and be killed for it."

Citing four reliable sources, Danson alleged that race authorities had been warned beforehand that the course was unsafe. No one did anything, he said.

"These concerns were apparently ignored," Danson said. "As a result, Nik is dead."

His father Bebe Zoricic, a veteran ski coach, said the poor design of the finish steered skiers to the right, the safety netting was of the wrong type and the mound of cement-like snow should not have been there.

The family said it had no plans for legal action provided a proper inquiry is done.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Katrina Zoricic, sister of late skier Nik Zoricic, speaks on Wednesday. MICHELLE SIU/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Background

- In skicross, several racers hurtle down a mountain at the same time, making jumps and taking slight curves on the way.
- Zoricic, 29, had raced on the World Cup circuit for more than three years and was competing in his 36th event in Grindelwald, Switzerland.
- He was killed at the finish line of a tight three-way race.

Tori Stafford trial

Court sees video of detention-centre visits

A man whose lawyer has suggested he was nothing more than a horrified witness to the murder of Victoria Stafford at the hands of his girlfriend is seen on video with the woman a month later flexing his muscles for her and drawing her in for a long embrace.

Michael Rafferty visited Terri-Lynne McClintic twice at a detention centre, where she was taken after being arrested days after the killing on an unrelated matter.

McClintic's arrest and detention apparently did not deter Rafferty from trying to keep in near-constant communication with her, records show.

Rafferty visited McClintic there twice and surveillance video played in court Wednesday shows the two laughing and joking around.

Rafferty, 31, has pleaded not guilty to first-degree murder, sexual assault causing bodily harm and kidnapping. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Free speech?

Girls fight expulsion over Facebook

Three eighth-graders from Indiana who say they were expelled after joking on Facebook about which of their classmates they would like to kill asked a federal judge Wednesday to order the district to allow them to return to school.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Indiana filed a lawsuit on behalf of the three 14-year-old girls in federal court in Hammond, claiming that Griffith Public School violated the students' free-speech rights.

The girls were suspended and later expelled in January for the remainder of the school year after a classmate's mother alerted officials at the school to the girls' Facebook posts, the lawsuit says.

The suit says school officials told the girls they had violated school policy against bullying, harassment and intimidation.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Zoo tragedy

Elephant turns on zookeeper in N.Z.

An African elephant has killed a zookeeper caring for her at the New Zealand zoo where the animal was retired after performing in circuses for decades.

Police officers were called to the Franklin Zoo near Auckland on Wednesday afternoon after an incident between the elephant and the keeper, a New Zealand police statement said. It said more information would not be released until the woman's family had been informed.

Wednesday was a public holiday in New Zealand, but the zoo was open, as were many tourist attractions.

Jumbo, also known as Mila, is the sole elephant at the Franklin Zoo, according to its website. The 39-year-old elephant arrived four years ago after performing in circuses for three decades. The zoo built a new enclosure for her in 2010.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Confessed killer says diagnosis is a smear

Trial. Breivik claims psychiatric report that found him to be insane is based on 'evil fabrications'

Mass killer Anders Behring Breivik slammed a psychiatric report that declared him insane, insisting Wednesday it was based on "evil fabrications" meant to portray him as irrational and unintelligent.

"It is not me who is described in that report," the right-wing extremist, who has admitted to killing 77 people in a July 22 bomb-and-shooting rampage, said in court.

A second psychiatric examination found that Breivik was sane. The five-judge panel trying Breivik on terror charges for the attacks will consider both reports.

Breivik's mental state is the key issue that remains unresolved in the trial, since he has admitted to a bombing in Oslo's government district that killed eight people and a subsequent shooting massacre at a Labor Party youth camp that left 69 people dead, most of them teenagers. He claims the attacks were "necessary" and that the victims had betrayed Norway by embracing immigration.

Sounding irritated, the 33-year-old Norwegian accused the two psychiatrists who declared him psychotic of deciding on the diagnosis prematurely, saying their judgment was clouded by their emotional response to the attacks.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A matter of sanity

If found guilty and sane, Breivik would face 21 years in prison, though he can be held longer if deemed a danger to society.

- If declared insane, he would be committed to compulsory psychiatric care.
- "To a political activist, the worst thing that can happen is to end up in a mental hospital," Breivik said. "That would delegitimize everything you stand for."

Madeleine McCann. U.K. police say missing girl may still be alive

British police on Wednesday asked Portugal to reopen the case of Madeleine McCann, saying that as the fifth anniversary of her disappearance approaches there is a possibility she is still alive.

Police also released a new image of what McCann would likely look like today, expressing hope that she would be found even years after the then-three-year-old vanished on May 3 while on a trip to Portugal with her family.

The case sparked global interest because of heartbreaking images of the girl beamed around the world and, in part, because her parents were briefly considered suspects before they were cleared.

Detective Chief Inspector Andy Redwood said he is leading a team of 37 police officers reviewing some 40,000 pieces of evidence gathered so far.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Three-year-old Madeleine McCann and a computer-generated image of her at nine years old. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/LONDON METROPOLITAN POLICE

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'This thing's huge.' Fossil stumps scientists

Experts are trying to figure out what a fossil dubbed "Godzillus" used to be.

The 68-kilogram fossil recovered last year in Kentucky is more than two metres long. To the untrained eye, it looks like a bunch of rocks or a concrete blob. Experts are trying to determine whether it was an animal, mineral or a form of plant life from a time when the Cincinnati region was underwater.

Scientists at a Geological Society of America meeting viewed it Tuesday at the Dayton Convention Center in Ohio.

"We are looking for people who might have an idea of what it is," said Ben Dattilo, an assistant professor of geology at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne.

Scientists say the fossil is 450 million years old. University of Cincinnati geologist Carl Brett said it's the largest fossil ever extracted from that era in the Cincinnati region.

"This is the ultimate cold case," said Ron Fine, the Dayton, Ohio, amateur paleontologist who spotted the fossil on a hillside last year and gave it its name.

"Like Godzilla, it's a primordial beast that found its way to the modern era," Fine said. Now 43, Fine has been collecting fossils since age four, and said he saw part of this one on a hillside off a Kentucky highway nearly a year ago.

The "Godzillus" fossil. THE CINCINNATI ENQUIRER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"Most fossils around here are small, the size of your thumbnail or your thumb," he said. "This thing's huge."

He said it could be an early form of seaweed or kelp.

"This one has us stumped," said David Meyer, another UC geology professor.

"Cincinnati was covered by a sea, 100 to 200 feet deep," Meyer said. "Primitive shellfish lived in it. But no fish."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Testing finds mad cow disease at U.S. plant

Women buy beef in Seoul on Wednesday. Two major South Korean retailers have suspended the sale of U.S. beef after a dead dairy cow in California was found to have had mad cow disease. AHN YOUNG-JOON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

California. Authorities say consumers shouldn't be alarmed; disease cannot be transmitted by contact among cows

A nondescript building in the heart of California's dairy country has become the focus of intense scrutiny after mad cow disease was discovered in a dead dairy cow.

Two major South Korean retailers suspended sales of U.S. beef in response.

Tests are performed on only a small portion of dead animals brought to the transfer facility in central California.

The cow had died at one of the region's hundreds of dairies, but hadn't exhibited outward symptoms of the disease: unsteadiness, inco-ordination, a drastic change in behaviour or low milk production, officials said. But when the animal arrived at the facility with a truckload of other dead cows on April 18, its 30-month-plus age and fresh corpse made it eligible for USDA testing.

"We randomly pick a number of samples throughout the year, and this just happened to be one that we randomly sampled," Baker Commodities executive vice-president Dennis Luckey said. "It showed no signs" of disease.

The samples went to the food safety lab at the University of California, Davis on April 18. By April 19, markers indicated the cow could have bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), a disease that is fatal to cows and can cause a deadly human brain disease in people who eat tainted meat. It was sent to the USDA lab in Iowa for further testing.

Agriculture officials announced the findings Tuesday: the animal had atypical BSE.

That means it didn't get the disease from eating infected cattle feed, said John Clifford, the Agriculture Department's chief veterinary officer.

It was "just a random mutation that can happen every once in a great while in an animal," said Bruce Akey, director of the New York State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.

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Newt's topsy-turvy campaign all but done

White House wannabe. Inevitability sets in for outspoken GOP candidate Gingrich after Romney sweeps five state primaries

The end of the road is near for Republican presidential wannabe Newt Gingrich, his entertaining campaign all but kaput in the wake of another humiliating trouncing in a state where he spent weeks wooing primary voters.

Gingrich is reportedly set to announce he's dropping out of the race in a week, ending a bid for president remarkable for its outward displays of arrogance, delusion and bitterness.

He all but conceded the nomination to Mitt Romney in an appearance in North Carolina on Wednesday morning, just hours after the front-runner swept five state primaries.

Gingrich placed dead last in all but one of those contests, Delaware, finishing behind libertarian congressman Ron Paul, who's remaining in the race.

Gingrich, 68, said an announcement on the future of his campaign was forthcoming. Several news outlets report the former speaker of the House of Representatives plans to formally announce he's dropping out on Tuesday after a farewell tour of sorts through North Carolina.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Announcement pending

"It's pretty clear Gov. Romney is going to be the nominee."

Newt Gingrich,
to supporters in Cramerton, N.C.

Newt Gingrich is reportedly set to announce he's dropping out of the GOP presidential race within the next week. JOHN W. ADKISSON|GETTY IMAGES

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Social-media love triangle. Facebook posts lead to all-out street brawl

A mob of women got into a bloody street fight in California, reportedly as a result of Facebook posts.

Recently, a wife discovered her husband was cheating on her with another woman, who was posting comments on Facebook about their romance. The wife decided to do something about the torrid affair.

"It was about infidelities, some types of postings about those things. It obviously got her upset enough to want to fight the woman," said Sacramento police officer Michele Gigante. "It turned into a bit of a melee."

Word spread fast about a pre-planned brawl between the ladies. Some 30 women arrived at an intersection in Del Paso Heights near Sacramento at around 4 p.m. Sunday. Witnesses say they began yelling, pushing and swinging — some fists, others baseball bats. Rocks, bottles and candles were also used as weapons in the battle.

Police said one woman grabbed a votive candle from a nearby roadside memorial on the corner of Grand Avenue and Clay Street, smashing it to use as a sharp weapon.

"Two people really sustained major injuries," Sacramento Police Sgt. Andrew Pettit said to CBS Sacramento news. "Those two people were reportedly hit with bats and they went to the hospital requiring stitches."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

A Google street view of the intersection in Sacramento, Calif., where some 30 women reportedly got into a street fight because of Facebook posts.

Freedom of speech?

Marine to be discharged for Obama critique

A sergeant will be discharged for criticizing President Barack Obama on Facebook in a case that called into question the Pentagon's policies about social media and its limits on the speech of active duty military personnel, the Marine Corps said Wednesday.

Sgt. Gary Stein will get an other-than-honourable discharge and lose most of his benefits for violating the policies, the corps said.

The San Diego-area Marine he was disappointed by the decision. He has argued that he was exercising his free-speech rights. "I love the Marine Corps, I love my job. I wish it wouldn't have gone this way. I'm having a hard time seeing how 15 words on Facebook could have ruined my nine-year career," he told The Associated Press.

Gary Kreep, an attorney for Stein, said he would pursue administrative appeals within the Marine Corps but anticipates the effort will be denied. He said he planned to file an amended complaint in federal court.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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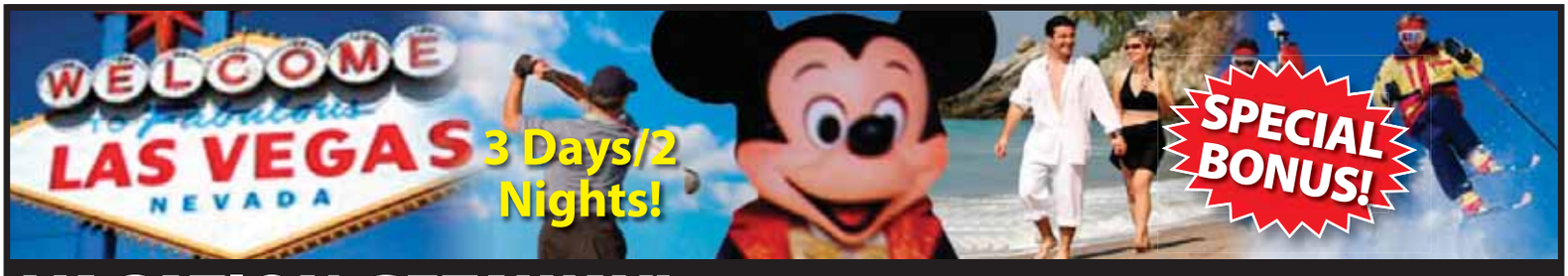

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Homeland Security grilled on Colombian prostitution scandal

Conflicting portraits of the Secret Service took stage Wednesday in Congress, as senators challenged Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano to reconcile the image of agents who protect the lives of America's president with the dozen officers and supervisors implicated in a humiliating prostitution scandal.

Napolitano told the Senate judiciary committee that the incident in Colombia involving as many as 20 women appeared to be an isolated one. She said the agency's office of professional responsibility had not received any complaints in the past two-and-a-half years. She said investigators are reviewing earlier time periods as well.

"This behaviour was not part of the Secret Service way of doing business," Napolitano testified. "We are going to make sure that standards and training, if they need to be tightened up they are tightened."

Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano testifies on Capitol Hill.
SUSAN WALSH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Colombia scandal has been widely denounced in Washington, but it's a delicate political matter in an election year with the presidency and congressional majorities at stake.

The White House said Wednesday that the conduct of the employees punished in the ongoing scandal was "inappropriate" and unacceptable for people representing the United States abroad.

Sen. Lindsey Graham, a Republican, pressed Napolitano about whether she believes this was the first incident involving prostitutes and the Secret Service.

"The only reason I suggest that we need to maybe look at little harder is because we're lucky to have found out about this. If there hadn't been an argument between one of the agents and, I guess, a prostitute, for lack of a better word, about money, we'd probably have never known about this."

Napolitano said while she is not aware of a broader culture problem at the Secret Service, Director Mark Sullivan and his investigators are looking into it.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Show of hands for 'show me your papers'

A supporter of Arizona's "show me your papers" immigration law demonstrates in front of the Supreme Court in Washington Wednesday. Supreme Court justices strongly suggested that they are ready to allow Arizona to enforce part of a controversial state law that requires police officers to check the immigration status of people they think are in the country illegally.
CHARLES DHARAPAK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WikiLeaks

Charges stick for U.S. army private

A military judge refused on Wednesday to throw out the charges against a U.S. Army private accused of providing thousands of sensitive documents to WikiLeaks in the biggest leak of government secrets in the country's history.

Army Col. Denise Lind denied the defence motion to dismiss all 22 charges during a pre-trial hearing in the court-martial of Pfc. Bradley Manning.

Manning is accused of sending hundreds of thousands of sensitive documents to WikiLeaks, the anti-secrecy website run by Julian Assange. The U.S. government says the publication of that material online aided al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula.

The defence has filed several motions seeking dismissal of individual charges, including the most serious, aiding the enemy. That offence carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment.

Lind scheduled the trial to run from Sept. 21 through Oct. 12. She also scheduled four more hearings in June, July, August and September.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gatecrasher plans to run for state governor

President Barack Obama greets Michaele and Tareq Salahi at a state dinner at the White House in Washington on Nov. 24, 2009. The Salahis deny they were crashing the event. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Loftier goals. Tareq Salahi crashed a 2009 White House dinner but now says he plans to be on the GOP ticket in Virginia's gubernatorial election

White House gatecrasher Tareq Salahi says he plans to run for governor of Virginia next year.

Salahi completed a declaration of candidacy. But that is meaningless until Jan. 1.

A State Board of Elections official says the agency that oversees Virginia elections can't accept the declaration until the year in which the election is scheduled.

Salahi's plan to run as a Republican comes just days after another GOP candidate for governor, Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli, filed a lawsuit against Salahi and his winery. It claims they cheated customers who bought winery tours. Salahi gained fleeting fame with his now-estranged wife as uninvited guests to a 2009 White House state dinner.

Their brazen exploit sparked concern about the Secret Service's effectiveness.

The notoriety also landed Michaele a role in the reality television series Real Housewives of D.C., which was cancelled after one season.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Royal fever in Philly. U.S. school prepares to welcome Prince Edward

When the future King Edward VII visited Girard College in 1860, the boarding school for underprivileged students served about 860 white boys in a bucolic setting on the edge of bustling Philadelphia.

That is not the institution that the British monarch's great-great-grandson will see on Thursday.

Now educating a much smaller and racially diverse student population of boys and girls, Girard is a cloistered slice of serenity amid a gritty neighbourhood in the heart of the city.

Yet it remains dedicated to its mission of educating low-income students even as the school itself struggles financially. It's also facing a change in leadership as its dynamic young president, Autumn Adkins Graves, steps down at the end of June.

But first, Graves will welcome Prince Edward, who will plant a tree to honour the Diamond Jubilee of his mother, Queen Elizabeth II, now in her 60th year on the throne.

Prince Edward, in New York City this week. MICHAEL LOCCISANO/GETTY IMAGES

Pomp and ceremony

"It's exciting.... We've ordered a lot of British flags."

Autumn Adkins Graves, president of Girard College

Edward's great-great-grandfather planted two trees at the school 152 years ago.

The prince also will visit with students from Girard and several other local schools who participate in a youth development program started by his father, the Duke of Edinburgh.

It's all part of his tour of the United States, which includes stops in New York, Chicago and Birmingham, Alabama.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ministry of mix-ups

Dinner invite leads to Swedish comedy of errors

Sweden's environment minister thought she'd asked the country's former agriculture minister to attend a glam dinner.

But the invitation went to the "wrong" Margareta Winberg — an ordinary Swede who jumped at the chance to mingle, even participating in the group photo.

Winberg, a 67-year old retiree from Sundbyberg, told the Swedish daily Dagens Nyheter that although she doesn't know much about the environment, she didn't hesitate in taking up Lena Ek on the offer last week.

She told the paper she wore black trousers and a blouse and met interesting people "like that guy Blix" — a reference to former chief UN weapons inspector Hans Blix.

Ek's spokesperson said the minister found the situation "extremely funny."

METRO

West Bank homes due for demolition

Disputed territory.
Netanyahu says he hopes to prevent demolition and save buildings

A fast-approaching deadline to demolish the homes of 30 families in an unauthorized West Bank settlement outpost is deepening fractures in Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government, with some hardliners warning the ruling coalition will fall if the buildings come down.

As he enters his fourth year in office, Netanyahu is walking a fraying tightrope, declaring himself committed to making peace with the Palestinians while making concessions to settlers who have illegally staked claim to territory Palestinians want for a future state.

Now he faces a May 1 deadline by the Israeli Supreme Court to destroy the houses.

The future of the 30 apartments built north of Jerusalem have become a test of whether he can continue this balancing act.

The Israeli leader wants the court to defer the deadline to give officials time to save the five apartment buildings in the Ulpana outpost, built on the fringes of the religious Beit El settlement.

"We are looking for ways to prevent the demolition of the houses," Netanyahu told Israel Radio.

The buildings were ordered demolished because they were erected on privately owned Palestinian land, something the court outlawed decades ago, even as it authorized building on other West Bank territory.

A 2005 government report also found Ulpana was erected without following proper government procedures. The battle over the settlements is at the heart of the current impasse in peace efforts.

The Palestinians say there is no point negotiating with Israel if it continues to expand settlements in the occupied West Bank and east Jerusalem, areas they claim for their future state.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Matan Goldberg takes part in a performance of The White Soldier as Israel marks Memorial Day. ODED BALILTY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New Mexico

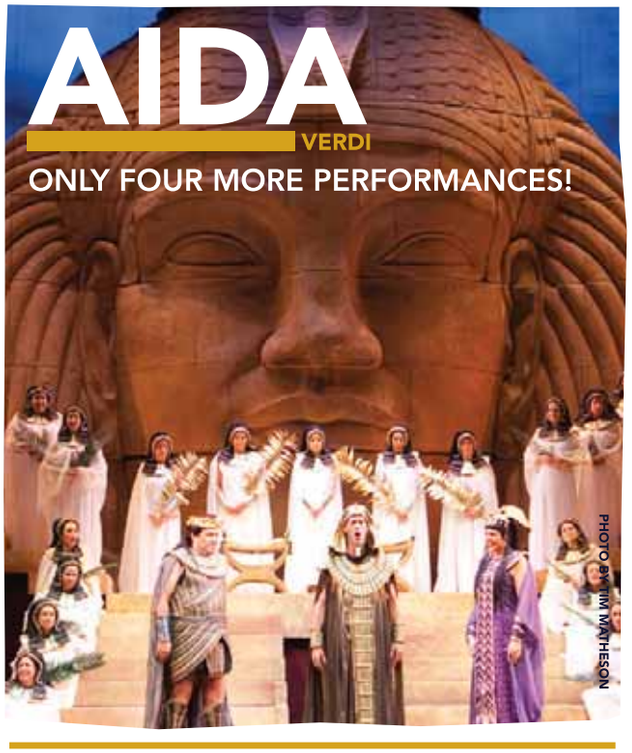
Officials clamping down on corruption to fight Mexican drug cartels

Scandal in the New Mexico border town of Sunland Park is nothing new. But what is new is the harsh response: State and federal authorities are focusing on border-town corruption as part of the larger effort to battle the influence of Mexican drug cartels.

"A result of that intense scrutiny is that we more than likely are going to ensnare someone abusing their position," said the U.S. attorney for New Mexico, Kenneth Gonzalez.

When state police descended on Sunland Park prior to March elections there were new allegations of extortion and financial kickbacks involving municipal officials, and the surreptitious filming of a topless lap dance being administered to one of the mayoral candidates. He lost. The winning candidate could not take office as a condition of bail.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Like their counterparts in the comic-book world, Real-life Superheroes need villains. Real-Life Super Villains were created four years ago to help ensure superheroes stay moral. 'Villains' don't have death lasers or plans to rule the world. They take upon themselves the duty of demanding accountability of those who would call themselves 'super'

Villains gladly put hose to heroes

Kaptain Blackheart NADIA FEZZANI/FOR METRO

NADIA FEZZANI AND THE GOLDEN DON
For Metro Canada

The interaction the Real-Life Super Villains have with the Real-Life Superheroes is mainly online.

Although it is known to happen, very rarely do RLSVs actually meet RLSHs in person.

For better or worse, the Internet is the medium. Approval, information-sharing, networking, collaboration and conflicts are played out on Facebook, YouTube and various message boards and forums.

Much like heroes, each villain operates differently.

Some Real-Life Super Villains criticize openly, sometimes cruelly, in posts and comments to demand response from heroes whose behaviour they find lacking.

Some mock by producing media designed to spoof and draw attention to the hero's shortcomings.

Targeting the 'capes'

"The reason I target certain 'capes,' as we call them, is that I don't believe that they are acting very heroic. If they are bigots or otherwise set a bad example for the community and/or the children who they are supposed to be protecting, it puts them right in my crosshairs. Heroes have no room for hate speech or supporting things such as crimes against women.

My goals have somewhat changed. I do not attack everyone who calls themselves a superhero ... just the ones who deserve it. There are those out there who I believe are genuine in what they are trying to do and truly wish to help people. I generally leave those people alone — and have actually become friends with some of them.

I will be honest: The costume makes things a lot more fun and theatrical for both sides. I mean, who wants to fight a 'hero' or 'villain' in a T-shirt and blue jeans? Come on — they get to wear costumes, then so do we!" Super villain Zyklon B

Villainy in disguise

The Golden Don
NADIA FEZZANI/FOR METRO

Keepers of the golden rule or cyber-bullies?

In many ways, Real Life Superheroes and Real Life Super Villains are more similar than they would want to admit. Many in both camps love comic books, and contribute to causes they believe in.

However, there are fundamental differences.

The greatest: RLSH go out and interact with their community in one way or another.

Villains, on the other hand, operate on the Internet.

Real Life Superheroes often criticize their nemeses by saying they waste their time in their "mothers' basements" nay-saying the RLSH world rather than making a real difference.

Many RLSH feel that the RLSV are simply costumed cyber-bullies.

NADIA FEZZANI/FOR METRO CANADA

Phoenix Jones: Masked

It was just like a scene from a movie the day Real Life Superhero Phoenix Jones' assault charges were dropped. As more than a dozen journalists and photographers crowded around him, the 23-year-old Seattleite took off his black and gold mask for the first time in public. For two years, he had been known for fighting crime. That day he told the world, 'I'm Phoenix Jones. I'm also Ben Fodor. I also protect the city, I also am a father, I also am a brother. I'm just like everyone else.'

Phoenix Jones NADIA FEZZANI/FOR METRO

Some call them Real Life Superheroes. Others refer to them as crime fighters or crime-prevention patrollers. Phoenix Jones and his team, the "Rain City Superhero Movement," call themselves a crime-prevention brigade.

For the past two years, they have been arresting carjackers, attackers and people threatening others with guns in the troubled areas of Seattle.

Equipped with bullet-proof vests, stab plating, pepper spray, Tasers and a first-aid kit, members of the 10-person team risk their lives to protect the lives of others. Even with protective equipment, the job is dangerous: Jones has been shot once and stabbed twice.

Jones is a six-foot-tall, 185-pound mixed-martial-arts champion who calls on lessons learned in his tough childhood to build his strong character.

Born to criminal parents who stole and sold narcotics, Jones — or Ben — was the middle child in a family of five. He was the only one who was sent to live in an orphanage until the age of five. "I guess it

hero exposed

was just luck of the draw. Just flip a coin," he recalls.

During that period of time, his mother got busted for selling drugs out of her baby carriage. When he was five, the system returned Jones to live with his father and siblings.

Two years later, life took a dramatic turn. While Jones was waiting in the car for his father to come back from running errands, he heard gunshots. His father had attempted to rob a convenience store and was killed.

Jones was placed in an orphanage but he wasn't like the others. Even though his mother was in prison, he had a parent.

Jones was adopted at nine years old, but had to spend half the time with his new family and half the time at the orphanage. At 11 he moved to his new home permanently and settled into a new school, where Jones starting training in martial arts. By 14, he was already a black belt.

After high school, he trained to work with autistic children, his passion for five years.

In October 2011, Jones was charged with assault when he broke up a fight using pepper spray. His costume was taken and his identity was revealed as public record. Even though the charges were dropped, the authorities kept his uniform for weeks.

Jones chose to embrace his circumstances, even though he lost his job and licence to work with the autistic because of the assault accusations. He faced the public bravely. Now, with a little less mystery, he continues to patrol, protect and inspire the citizens of Seattle.

NADIA FEZZANI/FOR METRO CANADA

Meet the Super Villains

Zyklon B

A prominent member of R.O.A.C.H., a villain group, Zyklon B took on a controversial name to match his approach to his criticism of heroes as a whole. He uses inflammatory comments that are designed to straddle the line of propriety, especially with new or unproven RLSH. "The bad guys are really the good guys. And the heroes are the villains," says Zyklon B.

NADIA FEZZANI/FOR METRO

The Roaming EYE of DOOM

A comedic group of what some call "Metavillains," these fiction-based villains are led by Octavius Fong, an evil puppet. The EYE has included those like Kaptain Blackheart, the Baroness, Agent Orange and others. The goal is to hold a "funhouse mirror" to the RLSH community by producing humorous videos, web-cast radio programming and online personas. The Baroness has also exposed false RLSH whose goal was to send explicit messages to females in the online community. They try to maintain a high standard of ethics, if only to keep the higher ground.

NADIA FEZZANI/FOR METRO

Lord Malignance

Perhaps the most disciplined practitioner of "Metavillainy," he speaks of himself in third person as "One." His portrayal of this persona has led to the creation of a textured fictional existence that includes a headquarters he has built in his home. His goal is to inspire critical thinking through absurdity and imagination. "Superheroes are trapped in a group self-delusion of their own making. Whenever the truth appears, they run from it like kryptonite," says Lord Malignance.

NADIA FEZZANI/FOR METRO

Caligula Caesar

Caligula Caesar selected his name to embody the greed and thirst for power that his historical namesake so villainously displayed. Based out of Brooklyn, he calls his neighbourhood the New R.O.M.E. (Reign Over My Enemies). He got into villainy eights months ago, when he heard of local superheroes making what he considered to be preposterous claims about contributing to decreasing crime in his part of town. Today, he manages a forum where heroes and villains can debate, settle their differences and air their grievances without it being visible to fans and supporters.

NADIA FEZZANI/FOR METRO

More at metronews.ca

- **Exclusive video interview: Phoenix Jones and Purple Reign with Pure Evil.** Until recently, Real Life Superheroes Phoenix Jones and Purple Reign have refused to communicate with Real Life Super Villains. Exclusively, they have accepted the invitation for an interview from the Golden Don and Kaptain Blackheart, the only "Metavillains" to be accepted by Jones.

Code of ethics

"A code of ethics is necessary if the community is to work toward a common goal. Because there are a growing number of superheroes, it's necessary that we all understand and trust one another. It's also important for the general public to know what we stand for, so that they, in turn, feel comfortable working with us. In my everyday life I'm a security professional, so I bring that background into the RLSH community. As the Silver Sentinel, I'm a mentor and friend to heroes around the world, offering advice and directing new people to training resources in their local communities." Superhero Silver Sentinel

Watchdog. Austerity to cost 100,000 jobs: Report

Government spending restraint and cuts will lead to balanced budgets but also slower economic growth and 100,000 lost jobs, Canada's budget watchdog said Wednesday.

Parliamentary Budget Officer Kevin Page's latest economic and fiscal report is surprising in that it agrees with the Harper government that the budget will be balanced in 2015-16 — maybe even a year earlier. But it says fiscal soundness carries a heavy price, with Ottawa taking $52 billion out of the economy and the provinces adding another $9 billion in drag.

"The PBO expects that restraint and reductions in government spending on programs in Canada will act as a drag on economic growth and job creation, pushing the economy further away from its potential (gross domestic product) and delaying the economic recovery," the report states.

The report was posted on the PBO website Wednesday ahead of Page's testimony before the Commons finance committee on Thursday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

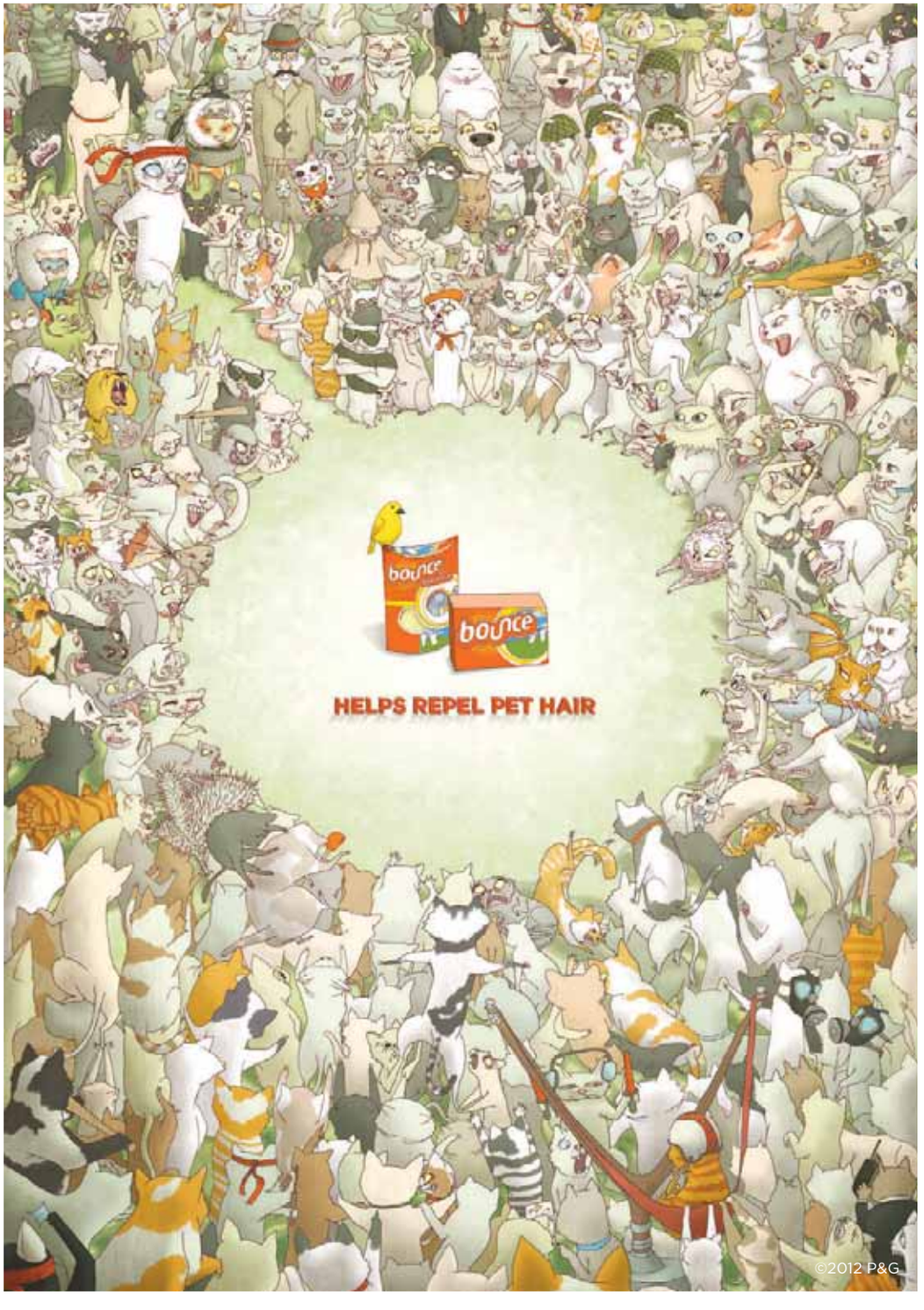
DOLLAR 101.68¢ (+0.47¢)

TSX 12,111.06 (+130.96)

OIL $104.12 US (+57¢)

GOLD $1,642.30 US (-$1.50)

Natural gas: $2.07 (+9.5¢)
Dow Jones: 13,090.72 (+89.16)



Laid off Aveos employees protest outside the annual meeting of ACE Aviation, ex-parent company of Air Canada, at the Museum of Fine Arts in Montreal on Wednesday. RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Workers accuse ACE Aviation of betrayal

Lost jobs. Air Canada's former parent company splitting spoils and abandoning workers: Protesters

Vented anger

"They are responsible for the nightmare we are living right now."

Maxime Dolci, Aveos employee and local union vice-president

Air Canada's former parent company was accused Wednesday of betraying workers by distributing millions of dollars among its shareholders as it winds down operations.

Hundreds of protesters blocked a downtown Montreal street where shareholders at ACE Aviation's annual meeting approved the plan to dissolve the holding company after less than 10 years of operation.

"They are going to distribute $350 million that belongs to us," Jean Poirier, vice-president of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, said on the steps of the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts.

While Air Canada struggles under the weight of more than $4.3 billion of debt and hefty pension obligations, ACE shareholders will split the spoils of selling its various divisions.

ACE barred reporters from its annual meeting. In a statement, it confirmed that shareholders approved the wind up of the company and plans to distribute between $250 million and $300 million in the coming weeks.

"The final distribution to shareholders will not occur earlier than mid-year 2013 in order to allow that any remaining contingent liabilities be settled or otherwise provided for," it said in the statement.

The protesters accused the Harper Conservatives of being in a conspiracy with Air Canada by not enforcing a law critics say requires heavy maintenance work to be done in Canada.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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ORANGE JUICE LEAVES BAD TASTE IN OUR MOUTHS

HE SAYS...
John Mazerolle
metronews.ca/hesays

Anyone else find it weird that the levels of outrage over a $16 orange juice and $25-billion fighter jets are roughly the same?

I understand, though.

It's difficult to wrap one's head around the Conservatives' $10-billion discrepancy between stated and actual fighter-jet costs because the average Joe rarely finds $10 billion in the couch cushions. It's such a big boondoggle there's no easy way to comprehend it.

On the other hand, we've all had $16 and we've all had orange juice.

So when we learn that Conservative MP Bev Oda had a taxpayer-funded $16 glass of juice at a super-posh London hotel — *because the first five-star hotel wasn't good enough for her* — we "get it" and go from zero to face-palm in 2.9 seconds.

People have been accusing Oda of having champagne tastes, but at least if the juice had been mixed with champagne, we'd have understood.

Dishonesty to the tune of $10-billion is bad, sure, but $16 orange juice, well, that offends our sensibilities.

This would explain why, when reimbursing the taxpayers for part of her costs, Oda left a wholly unnecessary $1,000-plus limousine on the taxpayers' bill, but made sure the orange juice was taken care of. She wouldn't want to look bad.

The only good news was that the relative clarity of Oda's OJ scandal makes the Conservatives' mishandling of the F-35 file that much clearer.

In both cases, the Conservatives criticized the opposition for doing its job. Oda called her questioners "extremist," which makes one hope she never becomes foreign minister.

In both cases, they said (essentially), "There is no scandal here, because once we got caught, we fixed it," which explains why they're the nation's leading experts on unreported crime.

And in both cases, they claimed to have followed all existing procedures. In the case of the F-35s, Defence Minister Peter MacKay said the $10 billion came down to "accounting differences," which is like blaming a car accident on "differences in direction."

The only real difference between the two scandals is that the Conservatives apologized for the orange juice.

But if you're still finding it hard to grasp the F-35 screw-up, then maybe this last comparison will help: $25 billion could buy Oda 1,562,500,000 glasses of Tropicana.

Supplemental discipline

I'm Brendan Shanahan, Canada's director of taxpayer safety.

- In February 2011, in London, England, an incident occurred during a conference on the immunization of children in poor countries. In the opening minutes, International Co-operation Minister Bev Oda delivered an unnecessary cheque for $665 to stay at a posh hotel. This is overcharging.
- As the documents show, Oda had the five-star Grange St. Paul's lined up for what should have been a clean, honest cheque. However, she launched herself over two kilometres into another all-star. This is a violation of the overcharging rule, which states: "A minor or major scandal shall be imposed on an MP who decides a five-star hotel is for cheapskates."
- It should be noted that the Conservatives did not change their fiscally conservative position either during or immediately prior to the cheque.
- While we accept Oda's assertion that she did not intend to hurt her electoral chances, the moment she left the first hotel, she became responsible for causing numerous Canadians' heads to explode.
- Canada's Department of Taxpayer Safety has decided to suspend Bev Oda, but I have no real power, so I'm not going to do anything. Just like my old job.

The Ants go marching in

FENG LI/GETTY IMAGES

Beijing

Auto show links new technology

Dancers perform beside the Chery @Ant concept vehicle during the 2012 Beijing International Automotive Exhibition at China International Exhibition Center on Wednesday in Beijing. More than 2,000 automotive enterprises from 14 countries and regions are participating in the massive auto show from April 23 to May 2. **GETTY**

Going green

China's dream of electric cars elusive

China's leaders are finding it's a lot tougher to create a world-beating electric-car industry than they hoped.

In 2009, they pledged billions of dollars for research and called for annual sales of 500,000 cars by 2015.

Today, Beijing is scaling back its ambitions, chastened by technological hurdles.

The government has hedged its bets by broadening the industry's official goals to include cleaner gasoline engines. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Quoted

"It's expensive in China at the moment because of import duties, and we don't qualify for incentives.... But we still think it's important that we demonstrate its capabilities here in China."

Kevin Wale,
president of GM China

Electric capabilities

300 km

China's most advanced developer, BYD Co. (in which American investor Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway Corp. owns a 10 per cent stake), says its electric e6 sedan can travel 300 kilometres on a charge — a range similar to that of Western models.

BYD has sold 300 taxis and 200 electric buses used in the southern city of Shenzhen, a centre for business and technology near Hong Kong, according to Henry Li, general manager of its export division. BYD has invested heavily in research and has thousands of engineers working on battery and motor technology.

Metropolitan Panel

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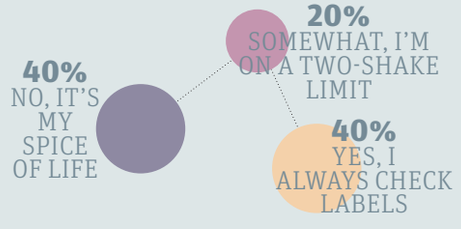
Are you concerned about your salt intake?



Twitter

@amymelii: Ugly day in #Vancouver, let's go to the gym!!

@FarhanLaljiTSN: The #Coyotes twitter account may offer up: "to all of Vancouver, you're welcome" #canucks

@VancityBuzz: Whoa! Major shake up in radio land as @KidCarson is leaving The Beat to join @TheSonicNation http://ow.ly/avRjn #Vancouver

@HarJournalist: The #Vancouver #Whitecaps Women's team have signed #CANWNT players Chelsea Buckland @C_buckland & Desiree Scott @MsDScott11 for this season.

@deejlam: Why do our busy weeks coincide with Terminal City's caustic weather? #Vancouver

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When your relationship heads into wild territory

Arts Club Theatre. Henry and Alice are back, this time with wacky adventures in the great outdoors

BACKSTAGE PASS
Graeme McRanor
vancouver@metronews.ca

I'm not really an outdoorsy kind of guy. I mean, I like being outside, and I enjoy being in the mountains, but I need to be within striking distance of a town, preferably one with a well-stocked liquor store.

I've written about some of the adversity I've encountered in the woods before – suffice it to say I'm no Bear Grylls.

Thing is, being an urban creature in a wild environment can be a challenge, especially if your partner is also built for city life.

Have you ever tried to assemble a tent in the dark with your girlfriend? Let me tell you, things can get pretty testy. But, hey, that's why car seats recline, right?

The seats at the Arts Club Theatre Company don't fold back, but chances are you'll be too busy laughing at Henry and Alice's travails when they take their relationship Into the Wild at the Granville Island Stage until the end of May.

You'll remember Henry and Alice from the Arts Club hit, Sexy Laundry. Well, those zany kids are back, and this time they're forced to examine their relationship in the wooded wilds of the backcountry. Of course, they're not alone. Joining them is Alice's free-spirited sister.

Tents collapse. And a crash course on how to survive a midlife crisis ensues.

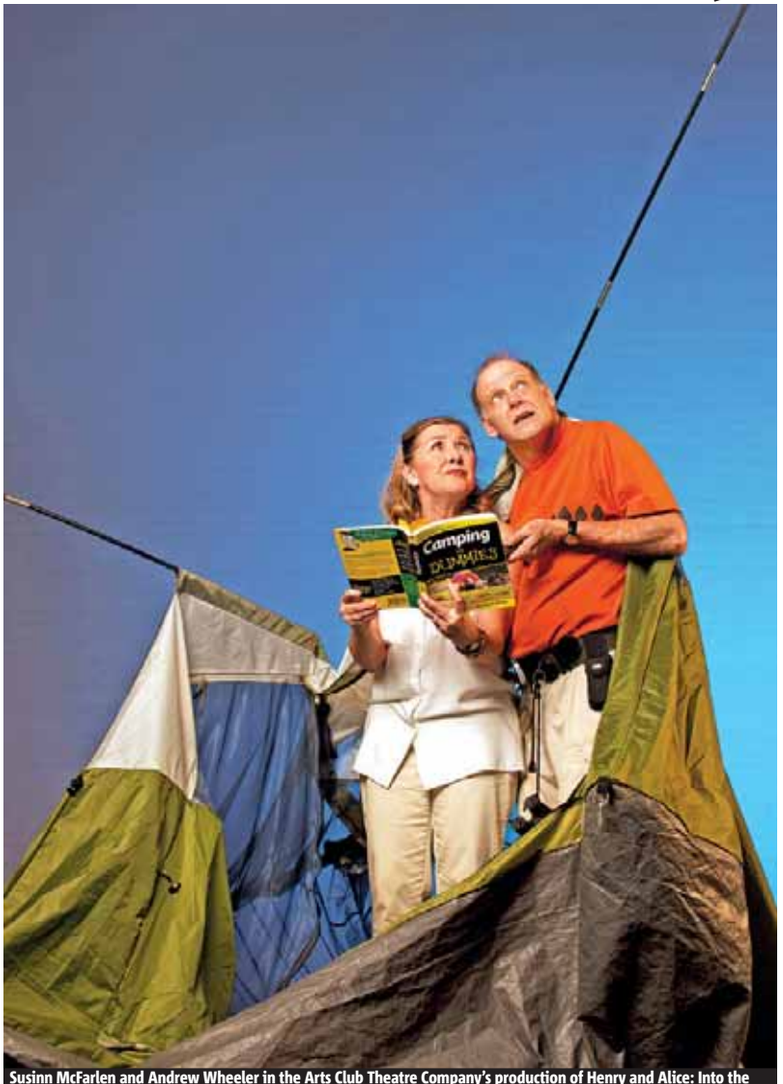
Artistic managing director Bill Millerd says: "Michele plays with our nostalgia for our childhood family vacations, including making s'mores, singing campfire songs, and telling ghost stories, while unpacking a very adult story about remaking your future at 55."

Henry and Alice: Into the Wild, by Michele Riml, stars Beverley Elliott, Susinn McFarlen and Andrew Wheeler.

Directed by Andrew McIlroy, it runs until May 26 at the aforementioned Granville Island Stage. More information at ArtsClub.com.

More entertainment

- **Adam Carolla performs at the Commodore Ballroom in December.** December! So get on that. Actually, tickets go on sale Friday morning at 10, so you actually should. So don't make plans for Dec. 2, OK?
- **The Penthouse is open again.** Actually, it's been open since April 5, but I forgot to mention it the last couple of weeks. And renovated too. Did you know it almost burned down? That would have been sad, from a historical point of view. It's been open since 1947.



Susinn McFarlen and Andrew Wheeler in the Arts Club Theatre Company's production of Henry and Alice: Into the Wild. DAVID COOPER/ARTS CLUB THEATRE COMPANY

2

SCENE

Scene in brief

Jack White wrangled for Lone Ranger

Walt Disney Pictures has wrangled Jack White to compose the score for The Lone Ranger. The studio announced Tuesday that the Grammy-winning rocker will write, produce and perform the score for director Gore Verbinski's upcoming adaptation of The Lone Ranger. The Lone Ranger will mark The White Stripes frontman's first time scoring a feature film. The film stars Johnny Depp as Tonto and Armie Hammer as John Reid. It is set to debut May 31, 2013.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the web

From playing a good guy or bad, TV to theatre, Topher Grace enjoys a varied acting career

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The Hobbit film hasn't even been completed yet but is already facing criticism. HANDOUT

Will Peter Jackson's Hobbit get panned before it even opens?

Sneak peek at new shooting style confounds some critics. What does this mean for the future of film?

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

CinemaCon attendees got a first look at 10-minutes of footage of Peter Jackson's upcoming the Hobbit: an Unexpected Journey, due in theatres this December.

But the main curiosity over the new film — the first of two based on J.R.R. Tolkien's book — wasn't so much the film itself, but how it was shot: Jackson filmed the Hobbit at 48 frames per second, double the normal speed of film. Jackson, via a video introduction, maintained that the higher frame rate creates a smoother image for the viewer.

"The movement feels more real," Jackson said. "It's much more gentle on the eyes."

Future of film

"The film is far from finished, of course, as some of the footage included green screens where scenery will be digitally added. That also means Jackson has time to tweak the look of the film. But the question remains: No matter how it's refined, will this "future of film" ... be embraced by general audiences?

But viewers at the convention — mostly cinema owners and press — weren't convinced, and film bloggers were fast and furious with their criticism.

"The movement of the actors looked… strange. Almost as if the performances had been partly sped up," said Slashfilm's Peter Sciretta. "It didn't look cinematic."

And Devin Faraci of Badass Digest offered, "Here's what The Hobbit looked like to me: a hi-def version of the 1970s I, Claudius. It is drenched in a TV-like — specifically '70s-era BBC — video look. People on Twitter have asked if it has that soap-opera look you get from badly calibrated TVs at Best Buy, and the answer is an emphatic YES."

The film is far from finished, of course, as some of the footage included green screens where scenery will be digitally added.

That also means Jackson has time to tweak the look of the film.

But the question remains: No matter how it's refined, will this "future of film" — as Jackson, James Cameron and others have asserted — be embraced by general audiences?

Judging by reactions coming out of Las Vegas, no.

Edgar Allen Poe is no action hero

The Raven. Sure, he fights crime, but John Cusack wouldn't define his role as such

DORTHY ROBINSON
scene@metronews.ca

John Cusack. HANDOUT

He rides on horseback while wielding a gun, tracks down a serial killer, drinks (heavily), and composes morbid short stories when he's not trying to save the girl. He's Edgar Allen Poe, action hero.

Or not.

"He's not an action hero, per se," says John Cusack who stars as this swashbuckling — yet still dementedly anguished — Poe in the new thriller The Raven. "Based on what we know of the man and his stories, it's not a stretch to think of him trying to solve a mystery."

Cusack realizes this take — whereupon literature's favorite dark and depressed writer follows a serial killer whose murders are very similar to those described in his most famous stories (The Pit and the Pendulum, The Masque of the Red Death, The Premature Burial, and The Murders in the Rue Morgue, among others) — uses some poetic license. But this "mash-up" version, as he defines it, is what attracted him to the role in the first place.

"A straight biopic would be boring — I love this mash-up," says Cusack with a slight gleam in his eye. "Poe was fascinating and multifaceted but the stories are where the real drama comes in."

And, really, a biopic still wouldn't be true to the man Poe was, Cusack continues.

"It would only be an amalgamation of what you think his life would be," he claims, since so much mystery still surrounds the life and death of the writer. "We (Cusack and director James McTeigue) figured we could paint a clearer picture of who and what he was when he becomes a character in his own stories."

The star claims this unorthodox approach is very Poe-esque.

"He writes about guys who are going crazy. He writes about dreams within dreams. (The Raven) is very Poe."

And really, if you are an actor and don't want to portray one of history's most fascinating and layered characters you should probably just retire.

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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Beyoncé named World's Most Beautiful Woman

Beyoncé's beauty secret? Having a baby.

"I feel more beautiful than I've ever felt because I've given birth," the singer tells People magazine, which named her the 2012 World's Most Beautiful Woman.

"I have never felt so connected, never felt like I had such a purpose on this earth." Beyoncé and husband Jay-Z welcomed daughter Blue Ivy Carter three months ago.

"The best thing about having a daughter is having a true legacy," Beyoncé adds. "The word 'love' means something completely different now."

Bieber pens song about paternity scandal

Justin Bieber is making the most of his paternity scandal last year.

"(I've written) a song about that whole situation with that girl who said she's having my baby — Mariah Yeater," Bieber says, according to AOL, adding that the track is "about every-thing I've gone through." Yeater claimed that she had a sexual encounter with Bieber at a concert in L.A. when she was 19 and the Canadian pop star was 16, leading to her pregnancy.

Bieber later took a DNA test to disprove her claims.

The Word

Chris Brown breeding, selling pit bull puppies

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Chris Brown and his family are selling pit bull puppies online — for $1,000 a pop.

The media was tipped off to the pop star's new business venture by his mother, who tweeted a link to the dog-selling site, along with a picture of Brown cuddling one of the puppies. A rep for the singer confirmed to The Associated Press on Tuesday that Brown and his family are indeed selling the 2-month-old pit bulls online.

The publicist's spin on the high price tag is that Brown, whom she defines as "an animal lover," "wants to make sure the dogs go to a good home."

Look, dog breeding is one thing. But breeding pit bulls? That's especially irresponsible. According to recent stats from the Humane Society of the United States, 70 per cent of dogs housed and euthanized in urban animal shelter systems are pit bulls. An even more depressing statistic from the Los Angeles Humane Society says that around 200 pit bulls in L.A. alone are euthanized every day due to over-breeding and lack of adoption opportunities.

The point being: Shelters are overrun with the breed, and thousands upon thousands are killed every year because no one will adopt them. And yet, Brown is selling each puppy for $1,000? Gross.

I'm channelling my inner Bob Barker when I say: I'm pretty sure the way for Brown to show that he's a true "animal lover" is to make sure his pets are spayed and neutered — and not to breed and then sell them on a website. Especially when, come on — does he really need the money?

Mila Kunis ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Ashton and Mila continue to feed rumour mill

Ashton Kutcher and Mila Kunis may have denied last week's reports that they've become more than just friends, but their recent activities aren't doing much to help that assertion.

The two reportedly shared a weekend getaway up the California coast, according to People magazine.

Witnesses spotted Kutcher and Kunis headed to Carpinteria, Calif., where they grabbed lunch and some fresh fruit Friday — and didn't surface again until Sunday morning. A source close to Kutcher says something like this has been in the cards since their That '70s Show days.

"He was so in love with her for a while when they worked together," says the source. "He thought she was a goddess, was always talking about how beautiful she is. But she was with Macaulay (Culkin) for a lot of that time and also just generally gave off a not-interested vibe."

Ozzy is a grandfather

Jack Osbourne and his fiancée, Lisa Stelly, are the proud parents of a newborn baby girl, welcoming daughter Pearl on Tuesday, his rep confirms to People magazine. It's the first grandchild for Ozzy and Sharon Osbourne. Sharon previously announced her intentions of spoiling the new addition. "I'm going to be the grandmother from hell, because I am going to spoil this baby so bad," she told People earlier this year. "My son and Lisa are going to be like, 'Get her out of here!'"

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Vivienne Westwood: 'I prefer freedom fighter'

Sustainable style. In Westwood's world, it's not about Earth Day. She'd rather you celebrate Earth Year instead. We discuss.

KENYA HUNT
Metro World News in London

When did you first become conscious of the environment and our impact on it?

For a couple of decades I've been really upset about the problem of climate change, and I couldn't bear the idea that we're still cutting down the rainforests. I just couldn't believe that the statistics were getting worse, not better. And then I read an interview with James Lovelock. He is a genius, the scientist who launched the 'Gaia' Theory.

Gaia is the name the Greeks gave to the earth goddess. James Lovelock thinks we are too late to stop climate change and that by the end of this century there will be only 1 billion people left. Fortunately! The consensus among almost all scientists is that we have now only up to 2020 to do something — eight more years.

And it's important for Americans to know that the [people who deny that climate change exists] are few but they are well-funded and well-publicized.

Do you consider yourself an environmental activist?

A name I prefer is 'freedom fighter.' I've got a voice because I've got a lot of credibility as a fashion designer. So I have been using my fashion for the last five or so years as a medium.

I use slogans and graphics in lots of my designs. I also give my fashion shows titles related to saving the planet or climate change, like Plus Five Degrees. Plus five degrees is uninhabitable, it looks good on a T-shirt and promotes awareness.

What would you say to people who view your fighting to save the planet and reduce consumption from the helm of a global fashion empire as being contradictory?

My aim is quality, not quantity. Timeless clothes that last, for people who make choices and don't just consume.

For people who can't afford my clothes, I hope to provide a standard of good design, which will help them to choose clothes that will suit them.

What are some changes that you've made in your own life to live in a more sustainable, ecologically-minded way?

I ride a bicycle for convenience and I'm a person who doesn't like to waste things. I never waste food, for example. I was brought up after the war, so I'm used to not wasting.

I also don't eat meat. I'm a very privileged person, living in this part of the world, so I can make choices and my preferred food really is just fruit and vegetables. You don't need other food. This is optimum health. Once you get into it, nothing else tastes so good.

Safe spending

Our three favourite bags from Vivienne Westwood's line, Ethical Fashion Africa, handmade in Nairobi. viviennewestwood.com

LIGHTNING SHOPPER
$250

I LOVE CRAP CLUTCH
$160

BARK FLOWER CLUTCH
$150

Gorgeously green

Vivienne Westwood's tip for living sustainably:

- **Buy less.** "Buy less, choose well and make it last. I really do think that people should exercise choice and not just consume without thought — sucking up stuff all the time, one thing after another."

3 LIFE

Style file

Narciso Rodriguez honoured

Fashion designer Narciso Rodriguez has always referenced the world of art: Modern paintings are one of his many sources of inspiration. It seems fitting, then, that El Museo del Barrio will honour the designer of Cuban descent next month during its annual gala. In its announcement, El Museo said that Rodriguez is considered one of the 25 most influential Hispanics in America. "It's a great compliment. I don't know if it is necessarily true, but it is a great compliment. I like to think that I have given back to the community," Rodriguez said during an AP interview. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the Web

Montreal Fashion Week finds a new home at contemporary art complex

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From crazy curls to managed mane

Straight talk. Hair Kit assistant Jamie Lincoln returns to assess four more blow-dacious products

THE KIT
thekit.ca

Revlon Professional's Equave 2-Phase Hydro Nutritive Conditioner for Dry, Colored, Permed or Highlighted Hair

A few sprays of this to damp hair added a much-needed dose of moisture and shine. $17,revlonprofessional.com

Rowenta Beauty Infini Pro Auto Sensor Professional Ionic Ceramic Dryer

I have had a long relationship with my hairdryer, so I was skeptical to try the Rowenta Beauty dryer, but there's a reason it's so heavy: it works. The force of the air dried my hair in half the time, which ensured it was super-sleek and straight. And the auto-off feature meant it was easier to maneuver it and my round brush (which I normally can't be bothered with), so I didn't even need to straighten my hair afterward. My entire time in the bathroom was cut in half. $219, rowentabeauty.com

Matrix's Total Results Moisture Cure 2-Phrase Treatment

Just a few spritzes to damp hair treated my entire head, so that post-blow-dry, it looked silky and shiny — but still moveable. $15, matrixcanada.ca

Revlon Professional's Pre-Tools Defender

After blow-drying, I sectioned off my dry and super-puffy hair and applied a few light sprays of Thermal Protector to each area before flat-ironing. The results were beautiful—my pin-straight hair looked healthy, shiny and split-end free. $20, revlonprofessional.com

GET ALL THE LATEST BEAUTY KNOW-HOW AT THE KIT INTERACTIVE MAGAZINE, THEKIT.CA

CUSTOM PUBLISHING METRO

AND THE GRAND PRIZE WINNER OF THE SIGNÉ MÉTRO CONTEST IS… MATTEA GOLDSTEIN

Mattea Goldstein is the grand prize winner of the Signé Métro contest with her Flapper Faerie dress. Her creation, inspired by the 1920s, and let's not forget, made of Métro newspapers, appealed to the most Internet surfers. "I'm super excited!" exclaimed the young woman when we called her with the good news. I'm really happy because I worked really hard for my idea to become reality"

Mattea's sketch of the dress, which features curved shapes, grabbed the jury's attention. When choosing the sketch among the finalists, they wondered how the student from Vancouver's LaSalle College would manage to bring this dress to life. "I invested a lot of time in this dress!" confides the young woman originally from New Jersey. "I created many prototypes. I tested many techniques to finally be able to give the dress the shape I was looking for."

Thanks to Mattea's talent and determination, skeptics were truly confounded!

ETHICAL AND RESPONSIBLE FASHION

This great reward arrives just as she graduates from the Fashion Design programme at Vancouver's LaSalle College. Diploma in hand, Mattea now hopes to find a job in fashion. "I'd like to find a job as an Assistant Designer or Pattern Designer. I would actually like to gain a few more years of experience before launching my own clothing line", explains the 25-year-old Apprentice Designer.

Mattea would like to have a label that is ethically responsible, perhaps even use recycled materials when creating her clothing. It is actually her interest in ethical fashion that encouraged her to participate in the Signé Métro contest.

The young woman, who learned how to sew from her mom, claims to be very inspired by brands like Maiyet. "Maiyet made the choice to not have its products made in China and be a company that is involved in all the production stages of its clothing. I want to be inspired by that and create a label with a social conscience."

Inspired, inspiring, Mattea Goldstein: a name to remember!

Sketch Dress

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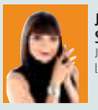

JEANNE SPACE
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@Jeanne_Beker: Working with @G_Antonopoulos in Montreal on fall EDIT campaign!

@Jeanne_Beker: In Montreal, at a fitting for my EDIT fall shoot tomorrow! Love the mustard boiled-wool jacket...

@Jeanne_Beker: EDIT's holiday take on red velvet + faux fur...@thehudsonsbayco this November!

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metro
METRO SPACES
Thursday, April 26, 2012

Views from the apartments at KitsWest are picturesque. First-floor residents get a North Shore Mountain panorama while those on the fourth floor can see onto Burrard Inlet. CONTRIBUTED

Well-thought-out development

KitsWest. Condos are at the residential heart of West 4th Avenue in Kitsilano

STEPHANIE ORFORD
For Metro

Once home to Vancouver's hippy scene, Kitsilano is one of the city's most beloved neighbourhoods. Those who move there tend to stay there, and Kitsilano real estate is closely guarded. Maybe that explains why KitsWest is the first new condo development the neighbourhood has seen in 15 years.

It certainly has a prime location. Located on West 4th Avenue between MacDonald and Bayswater, KitsWest is only a block and a half away from Kitsilano Beach (or "Kits," as locals know it).

"This is very much the residential heart of West 4th," said Lily Korstanje, managing director at Magnum Projects, the marketing company behind KitsWest.

The demographic buying at KitsWest certainly includes locals, many of whom grew up in Kitsilano, but haven't been able to afford to buy a home there until now. For them, this opportunity is rare, she said.

Though it's more of a funky upscale neighbourhood than a hippy hangout these days, 4th Avenue is home to many colourful shops, restaurants and pubs, said Korstanje. It's a well-loved place to socialize, day or night.

It's also a short commute to downtown Vancouver. For students, the development sits within the catchment area of West Point Grey Academy and Kitsilano Secondary School, and is a short, direct bus ride from UBC.

Views from the apartments are picturesque, said Korstanje. First-floor residents get a North Shore Mountain panorama, while those on the fourth floor can see onto Burrard Inlet.

During the annual Celebration of Light fireworks in the summer, Korstanje expects many a balcony party. Many units have large balconies of up to about 300 square feet. Perfect for a summer barbecue.

For those in bachelor suites who don't want to have their bed on display when guests come over, "intelligent upgrade options" are available, including a Murphy bed.

When the bed stows away, a built-in table drops down in its place, which can be a work station or a dining table. It works well for people who take their work home, said Korstanje.

Another intelligent feature of the development is the high-end energy efficient appliances, including a Fisher & Paykel fridge, gas cook top and self-cleaning convection oven.

Homes also incorporate high-quality features including a soaker tub, chrome bathroom fixtures, stone countertops and porcelain and ceramic tile. Also, buyers can choose from three colour palates.

"Smaller spaces need to work harder, and you don't want to compromise on the quality," Korstanje explained. "KitsWest is really well-thought-out."

Meet the development

- **Name:** KitsWest
- **Developer:** Redekop Kroeker Development Incorporation, Rob King Development Group, Redekop Development Corporation
- **Location:** 2918 West 4th Avenue (between MacDonald and Bayswater)
- **Size:** 432 to 836 sq. ft.; bachelor to two-bedroom + den
- **Price:** $299,900 (including parking and storage) to $649,000 (with two parking spaces)
- **Units:** 50 total, four storeys, 85 per cent sold
- **Move-in ready:** Spring 2014
- **Website:** kitswest.com

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Home, James

Well-planned. Southeast False Creek community makes effective use of public space

STEPHANIE ORFORD
For Metro

If you want to build in a well-planned community, you better make sure your development lives up to the neighbourhood. That's why Vancouver-based developer Cressey made its development James "all about the details," said Hani Lammam, the company's VP of acquisitions and development.

"The whole Southeast False Creek community is probably one of the most thoughtful community plans that has been developed," explained Lammam, noting that the area makes particularly effective use of public space and has one of the city's best community centres, the Creekside Community Recreation Centre.

"I'm a strong believer that while it's an emerging neighbourhood, it's probably the best place to live in the city," he said.

Southeast False Creek has the urban feel and accessibility of downtown, but it's removed from the noise and crowds. The surrounding neighbourhoods of Cambie Village and Olympic Village are home to a plethora of shopping and eating choices. James is also a short walk from Main St. and Olympic Village SkyTrain stations.

"It doesn't get much better as far as amenities," said Lammam.

In keeping with the neighbourhood, James has a few amenities of its own.

"We actually worked very hard to encourage that community within the building," explained Lammam. James was designed to allow residents to come together in spaces including the gym, yoga studio, community gardens, business centre and rooftop lounge with barbecue and children's play areas.

These and many of the homes also have views of False Creek. The development offers a range of different home styles, including townhomes, lofts, flats, terraced penthouse flats and condominiums.

"We always said from Day 1 that James is a product that will appeal to everybody," said Lammam.

All units have striking architecture and high-quality interiors. Thoughtful details are here, too, he explained, from individual air conditioning (a rarity in Vancouver), to high-quality Italian cabinetry.

Other distinctive features in every home include porcelain tiles, composite stone and limestone countertops, a stainless steel double bowl sink, soft-close cabinet drawers and doors, a convection oven, a gas cooktop and an outdoor balcony.

The designers made sure to maximize storage space wherever they could. Floor plans include a full laundry room, rolling shutter doors for appliances and a recycling centre under the kitchen sink.

The building is LEED Silver equivalent and the Neighbhourhood Energy Utility recycles heat from sewage to provide heat and hot water. The building even has a car share program, but considering the location, chances are good you will rarely need one.

A view of the green roof of the James development. All the units have striking architecture and high-quality interiors. CONTRIBUTED

Meet the development

- **Homes:** 155 condos and townhomes in a 13-storey tower and a four-storey attached podium
- **One-bedroom and 1 + Den homes:** 618 to 641 sq. ft.; $429,900 to $442,900
- **Two-bedroom and 2 + Den homes:** 718 to 966 sq. ft.; $498,900 to $664,900
- **Lofts:** 790 to 845 sq. ft.; $509,900 to $534,900
- **Penthouses:** 1,237 sq. ft.; $1,149,900
- **Green features:** Built to LEED Silver standards, green roof, community gardens
- **Units left:** 13
- **Move-in ready:** August 2012
- **Website:** jamesliving.com

Bits & Bites. Renovation seminar offers free advice

PETER SIMPSON
For Metro

To help homeowners make informed renovation decisions, the Greater Vancouver Home Builders' Association — in partnership with BC Hydro, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. and FortisBC — will present its popular free spring home renovation seminar and exhibition May 15 in Vancouver.

Pre-registration is required. For details and to register, visitgvhba.org or call 778-565-4288.

Patient approach to planning

Burnaby Mayor Derek Corrigan has always impressed me as a strong leader who cares about his community, encourages economic, social and cultural opportunities that benefit residents and businesses, and supports the creation of well-designed residential and commercial development.

Corrigan's recent state-of-the-city address touched on many successes, and outlined his plans for affordable housing initiatives, parks, transportation options and environmental sustainability.

Corrigan said Burnaby embraces a long-term policy perspective to achieve its community-planning goals.

"This approach provides certainty to our development community, staff and citizens," he said.

"We do not make ad hoc decisions. Instead, we take a patient and persistent approach to planning."

Costly ticket to ride

Meanwhile, Richmond Mayor Malcolm Brodie, who, like Corrigan, cares about the well-being and managed growth of his municipality, recently announced a $4-billion-plus development plan.

There is, however, a wrinkle. Brodie said developers in Richmond's City Centre will be expected to contribute $7,800 per condo sale to fund construction of the Capstan station on the Canada Line.

In the end, condo buyers will likely pick up much or all of the $7,800 tab. I talked with a cash-strapped first-time homebuyer who believes he and his fellow condo buyers already pay enough to TransLink through remittances of fuel tax, property tax, bridge tolls, parking tax and AirCare fees.

Here's the thing — is it reasonable to expect that a community benefit such as a Canada Line station should be funded by the entire taxpaying community, not just buyers of new homes? Just asking.

Growth spurt in Metro

According to Statistics Canada, building permit values for residential and non-residential construction totalled $1.6 billion in Vancouver last year. Surrey followed with $1.2 billion, then Burnaby with $606 million, Richmond with $417 million and Coquitlam with $391 million.

PETER SIMPSON IS THE PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE GREATER VANCOUVER HOME BUILDERS' ASSOCIATION. EMAIL HIM AT PETER@GVHBA.ORG.

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Before you can be pre-approved for a mortgage, you must pre-qualify. ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

Mortgage basics. What you need to know

JANE DOUCET
For Metro

To say that buying a first home can be overwhelming is an understatement. The process comes with a language all its own, mostly around mortgages: Pre-qualification; amortization; fixed, variable, open and closed options; credit-score calculations.

"Working with a trusted mortgage professional can help simplify the process," says Mary Ann Krahulic, the Calgary-based manager of business development for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC).

Before you sign on the dotted line, make sure you have done the following:

Saved enough for a down payment. The minimum down payment is currently five per cent of a home's value; if your dream house is $350,000, you will need at least $17,500. Put more than 20 per cent down and you won't have to pay mortgage loan insurance. "The more you put down, the less of a credit risk you are for the mortgage lender," says Krahulic.

Checked your credit rating. Lenders look at your credit score to determine what kind of repayment risk you pose. Ask your lender to check it or do so yourself online through Equifax or TransUnion. "If your rating is poor," says Krahulic, "you may have a harder time getting approved."

Received pre-approval. Before you can be pre-approved, you must pre-qualify. A mortgage professional will help you learn what you can afford to buy before you start looking. This involves an honest conversation about your finances that will help determine how much of a loan you can get. The amount you are pre-approved for is how much of a loan the lender has committed to giving you.

Reviewed mortgage options. The two most common types are open (the rate can be locked in and additional payments made) and closed (the rate is locked in and the terms are fixed). Then there are fixed rate (a locked-in rate that won't increase for the term of the mortgage) and variable rate (it fluctuates based on market conditions but typically has a fixed payment).

It's important to learn the terms of each type. For example, does it allow extra, increased or accelerated payments? Varying payment frequency?

"Mortgage professionals typically advise first-time homebuyers to choose a fixed mortgage because of the predictability of the payments," says Krahulic.

What first-time homeowners need

As a first-time homeowner, you have set out on an unfamiliar journey. To help ensure smooth sailing, use this checklist; prowl garage sales to find good quality items at low prices.

Indoors
- Décor: Window treatments, rugs, lamps, lights, furniture.
- Kitchen essentials: Meat thermometer, cutting board, set of knives, oven mitts, all-clad pots, roasting pan, food processor, stainless steel mixing bowls.
- Vacuum cleaner.
- Humidifier, dehumidifier.
- Linens, towels.
- Extension cords, surge protector.
- Garbage cans.
- Ladder.
- Fire extinguisher.
- Remove locks from all entrance doors and take them to a hardware store to re-key — it's cheaper than buying new locks.

Outdoors
- Barbecue.
- Garden furniture.
- Snow shovel or blower.
- Lawn mower.
- Gardening equipment: hose, sprinkler, trowel, shovel, rake, hoe, push broom.

Tools for basic home repairs
- Toolbox.
- The basics: Vise grips, needle-nose pliers, screwdriver set, wire cutter/stripper, tape measure, electrical tester, reversible drill with set of bits, utility knife, handsaw, level, safety glasses, pry bar, chisel.
- Flashlights.
- Lubricant (such as WD40).
- Duct tape.

Save on utility bills

If you are like most new homeowners, you have a large mortgage to pay off over 20 or more years. A good way to become debt-free more quickly is to reduce your energy bills and use the savings to pay down the mortgage. Start by establishing a baseline: Ask for copies of the previous owner's bills for hydro, gas and heating oil. Monitor your bills closely and compare them with old ones, paying close attention to the amounts of energy consumed. Here are some tips to help you reduce consumption:
- Make sure the temperature of your water heater is set no higher than 55 C (120 F).
- Install ceiling fans and use them properly (pushing warm air down in winter and drawing cool air up in summer will reduce your heating and cooling needs).
- Use a programmable thermostat.
- Fix any leaks in taps, sinks and toilets.
- Install and use an outdoor clothesline, and indoor drying rack.
- Change the filter on your furnace regularly (typically four to six times per year).
- Install a rain barrel and use it when watering the garden.

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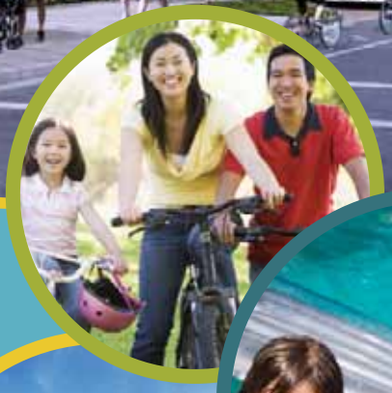

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Concrete vs. green space

Choice. Would you rather live in the suburbs or in an urban setting?

ASTRID VAN DEN BROEK
For Metro

Living in an urban setting means your life is within five to 10 minutes of local shopping, restaurants, and more. CREATAS/THINKSTOCK

Montagues versus the Capulets. East Coast versus West Coast rap. Urban versus suburban?

Well, the rivalry that once was a choice for settling down is evolving. Sarah Daniels and Philip DuMoulin, the B.C.-based brother and sister real estate agents and hosts of HGTV Canada's Urban Suburban offer their pointers on how to choose where to live.

Know the differences

Between urban and suburban life. "Urban life typically allows you one car. You can walk out your front door and you're five minutes from the community centre, your local shopping and restaurants and your life is really within five to 10 minutes of schools and everything," says DuMoulin. Meanwhile, a suburban setting will likely offer you newer homes, larger square footage and, overall, more property. And if you work in the city, you can also add on a longer commute time. So what's important to you? Being located near all sorts of options and amenities over a larger home?

Also know your suburbs

Not all suburbs are the same, notes Daniels — and oftentimes it depends on what city they are located near to. "A lot of suburbs are self-sufficient cities and they don't care what's happening in downtown because they live and work in the suburbs," she says. "But then, as is the case in Calgary, the suburbs are large subdivisions with mini-malls nearby. It's nowhere near the suburbs that you find in, say Vancouver, Toronto or Montreal. It really depends on the city that we're talking about."

Don't buy a house for life

It used to be that we would settle into a property as a couple and that's where you lived and raised a family. Not so anymore. "People are not buying the first house as typically being our only house that they'll ever buy," says DuMoulin. Instead, that starter home might be more like a smaller two-bedroom house to get the couple started in home ownership.

"So it's not when people are having that first child that people are automatically moving to the suburbs," adds Daniels.

"That urban-suburban pull comes from when they're having a second or third child, they have to decide what to do."

Moving in. Neighbours are part of the deal

Cooking smells and cigarette smoke are the two most frequent complaints that the condo board hears about, according to Linda Lavallee, president of Condo Corporation, Toronto. Pets and noise are also disruptive to some people.

"Living in close quarters is only for respectful, considerate and civilized people. It's all about your rights, my rights, and privacy."

Of course, whether you are looking to buy a condo or a semi- or detached home, your neighbours are part of the package.

In condos, people are living on top, next and below each other. There has to be strong control bylaws — and good manners. It's similar for homeowners in semi- and detached homes where the most common issues are fences and trees.

The property survey will show what's yours, what's theirs and what's shared, says Robert J. Lesperance, Canadian Bar Assocation B.C. branch co-chair for environmental law. He practises in Vancouver.

While you can trim tree branches that are encroaching on your property (as long as it doesn't damage the tree), if a fence is shared, the two homeowners must make decisions about changes together.

Even if the fence is on your property, it's a courtesy to share any changes you are planning with your neighbour.

At the end of the day, your duty is to make sure you don't cause damage to your neighbour's property and to be civil and respective at all times.

If you do have a problem:

The first step is to talk to your neighbour, says Lawless. "Reasonable people should be able to come to a reasonable solution."

Remember that whatever course of action you take, the neighbour will still be there in the morning. You will have to continue to live next to them unless one of you decides to move.

If you can't sort out the problem in person, the next step is to consult municipality bylaws (for example, the laws governing fence height, noise, etc.). A bylaw enforcement officer may be able to resolve the problem.

The last resort is to talk to counsel, says Lesperance. Typical claims in neighbour dispute cases would be trespassing, nuisance or maybe negligence.

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Ease the stress of moving

Moving to a new space can be exciting — except the actual moving part. We've talked to some experts to help ease the strain of moving.

Prepping

Georgina Forrest, a professional organizer who runs Smartworks office organizing service in Calgary, Alta., recommends creating a book.

The book would be your go-to, Forrest says, with paper for note-taking, space for business cards and receipts, to-do lists, even places you need to contact for address changes.

"This book went everywhere with us. Even if we were measuring for furniture ... we could take pictures or write measurements and it was always available to us."

Before you move, consider what you want to take with you, and what might be time to ditch.

"Declutter," says Wendy Hollick, a professional organizer, and owner of Neat Spaces professional organizers in the Greater Toronto Area.

Forrest agrees.

"You're moving to a nice new fresh space, do you want to take some old stuff you don't use into it?"

Packing

When you are packing, make sure boxes are labelled properly for the room in which they will go.

Mark a few key things that are in the box, or keep it in a list in your go-to book.

And both professionals recommend investing in packing paper.

"Newspaper just makes everything dirty and you have to wash everything when you unpack it," Hollick says.

If you plan to use movers, check with what kind of service they offer in regards to packing, or what deals they may have with packing supplies.

If you are moving on your own, Hollick says liquor store boxes and banker boxes are great.

Have essentials separate from other packed boxes — it's the stuff you will need first in the new place.

"So it's the things like the coffee pot and some mugs ... toilet paper, towels, soap," Forrest says.

CHRISTINA COPP

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Market roundup

Metro goes coast to coast with a market-by-market analysis of what you can buy for $300,000 to $350,000 in Canada today.

COMPILED BY DUNCAN MCALLISTER

Halifax

A brand new 2,412-square-foot home located three minutes from the downtown bridge in the desirable Willow Ridge subdivision. Asking price is $336,900. This spectacular R-2000, two-storey home is finished on all three levels. Three bedrooms, two bathrooms, and a seven-year new home warranty from Whitestone builders. Listing agent Larry Foran says it's just a great subdivision.
Listing: Keller Williams Realty, brokerage

Ottawa

A three-bedroom, four-storey end unit townhouse with almost 1,900 square feet, including finished basement and four bathrooms. Asking price is $342,500. Built in 2005, the unit features hardwood flooring throughout. Listing agent Michel Brissette says there have been quite a few upgrades on this unit, including a large deck and backyard shed.
Listing: Exit Realty Matrix, brokerage

Toronto

This bright and spacious three-year-old, two-storey Humber Summit townhouse is located on Islington Avenue. Asking price is $339,900 plus $179 monthly maintenance fees. With two bedrooms, two bathrooms, featuring hardwood floors and open-concept kitchen, granite countertops and limestone flooring. Listing agent Andreia Oliveira says you can still find a home in Toronto for less than $500,000.
Listing: Royal LePage Supreme Realty, brokerage

London, Ont.

This one just sold at press time. Asking price was $324,900 and it sold for $329,000 with three offers. A three-bedroom home in one of the most sought after areas of north London. Fully-fenced yard with deck and hot tub. Finished basement, gas fireplace and double-car garage.
Listing: RE/MAX Centre City Realty, brokerage

Winnipeg

A unique condo conversion in the Exchange district in the northern part of the city. Asking price is $329,000. Bill Thiessen specializes in downtown properties and says the building is occupied by an interesting and eclectic mix of savvy urbanites. This 1,279-square-foot suite is in the stylish Travellers Building. Ensuite laundry, open-concept design, wood floors and designer lighting.
Listing: RE/MAX Performance Realty, brokerage

Edmonton

A three-bedroom, two-and-a-half bathroom house in southeast Edmonton's Charlesworth community asking $345,000. Built in 2006, the 1,500-square-foot home features a master bedroom with four-piece ensuite and walk-in closets, upper-level laundry, kitchen with walk-in pantry and island, gas fireplace and double garage on a quiet street.
Listing: Century 21 A.L.L. Stars Realty, brokerage

Regina

An immaculate three-plus-one bedroom, three-bathroom, 1,288-square-foot home located in the lower mid-northwest of the city. Asking price was $349,900 and it just sold at press time on the same day it was listed. Bath and laundry room on main floor. Second floor has four-piece bath and three bedrooms. Basement features large family room, bedroom and ¾ bath.
Listing: RE/MAX Joyce Tourney Realty, brokerage

Calgary

A modernist two-bedroom, 1,070-square-foot condo in the Sole Vista in Renfrew, within walking distance to downtown. Asking price is $329,900. The unit features nine-foot ceilings, a parking spot, gas fireplace, ensuite laundry and sunny south patio. Listing agent Jeff Neustaedter says the Calgary condo market has been strong this spring.
Listing: RE/MAX House of Real Estate, brokerage

Vancouver

Houses are scarce in Canada's most expensive city. This one-bedroom, one-bathroom, 598-square-foot condominium is located in desirable South Granville, just 10 minutes from Granville Island Market. At press time the unit sold for $10,000 above the asking price of $329,000 with six offers. Listing agent Stephen Burke says it is a well-priced property in a great area, good for first-time buyers.
Listing: Sutton Group West Coast Realty, brokerage

Saskatoon

Located right in the city, this five-bedroom 1,203-square-foot corner lot home near Westmount is perfect for a young family. Asking price is $308,500. Features finished basement, euro kitchen, central vacuum and double concrete driveway. Close to schools and park, walk to downtown.
Listing: Coldwell Banker Rescom Realty, brokerage

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Retirees seek manageable space

ON THE MARKET

Jeff and Amanda Stern are a mid-60s retired couple living in a stately home in West Vancouver. Now that their three children are grown and out on their own they have decided that it's time to downsize to a much more manageable space.

Wanting to stay in their desired city of West Vancouver, they are seeking a smaller two-bedroom condominium at a maximum price of $1.3 million.

Outdoor space is a must and can be in the form of a deck or balcony. The second bedroom must be of decent size in case one of the grandchildren comes for overnight visits, and the kitchen must be relatively updated and ready to cook large family meals. Here are three properties the Sterns should consider.

RYAN DELUCA IS A REAL ESTATE AGENT WITH SOTHEBY'S INTERNATIONAL REALTY CANADA.

400-568 Waters Edge Cres. — West Vancouver
$1,190,000
In the heart of Park Royal, this two-bedroom, two-bathroom condo is next to Park Royal shopping centre. At 1,190 square feet, there is definitely no shortage of space for entertaining the grandchildren, which both Jeff and Amanda enjoy doing. Ten-foot ceilings give the home an airy, open feel and the gourmet kitchen with stainless steel appliances and granite counters are all a big plus. The large deck faces north and west and is perfect for entertaining. Listing agent Paul Isaacs of Angel Hasman and Associates Realty also notes the complex has many amenities and one parking stall is included.

8-1891 Marine Dr. — West Vancouver
$1,276,000
With 1,179 square feet of living space, this unit has all the room the Sterns are seeking. Built in 2010, this Linda Berger development has custom finishings and even a den along with the two bedrooms. The vaulted ceilings, crown moulding, custom millwork and high-end appliances finish off this space. A private rooftop deck is perfect for entertaining grandchildren and hosting family barbecues. Listing agent Kathie French of Prudential Sussex Realty West Vancouver notes that, in this location, Amanda and Jeff are just steps to shopping, cafés and pubs and a short stroll to Ambleside Park, which is an added bonus.

33-2238 Folkstone Way — West Vancouver
$980,000
This 1,171-square-foot two-bedroom, two-bathroom condo has been gutted down to the studs and reconfigured to give the best possible floor plan. A large 260-square-foot deck overlooks the city of Vancouver and has stunning ocean views, which appeals to Amanda. The kitchen has been completely modernized with silestone counters, and stainless steel appliances. A large dining room is perfect for family dinners and the rare wood-burning fireplace is a feature that Jeff is definitely drawn to. Listing agent Eric Langhjelm of Re/Max Masters Realty explains the complex also comes with a pool, gym, rec room and tennis court.

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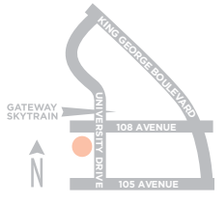

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171905-939 Homer St. — Yaletown
Listed: $320,800
Sold: $316,000
Type: Condominium
This 442-square-foot studio in the heart of Yaletown sold in less than two months. Listed fully furnished, this unit makes a great rental property for corporate clients in town on extended business. The home has been kept in pristine condition with sleek fixtures, slate floors, an open kitchen and a bedroom that can be closed off when entertaining. Steps from cafés and restaurants and only two blocks from the ocean, this investment property is ideally situated for maximum rental appeal. Bonnie Hastings of Re/Max Crest Westside notes this home also has ensuite laundry, parking and storage, as well as a pool, gym and amenity room.

880 Gore Ave. — Mount Pleasant
Listed: $739,990
Sold: $723,500
Type: Detached House
James Stewart of Hanna Realty sold this two-bedroom, two-bathroom home in less than a month. Situated in the historical Strathcona neighbourhood and just minutes from all the shops and bars in Gastown, this house is a true gem. Ample storage, maple cabinets, granite counters, stainless steel appliances, hardwood flooring and high ceilings are just some of the features adorning the space. A fenced front yard and low maintenance lawn make this a perfect investment for a homeowner on the go. This house also comes complete with a single-car garage, and sprinkler system.

2 Crawford Bay Rd. — Port Moody
Listed: $774,900
Sold: $762,000
Type: Detached House
Listed and sold by Angela Mead of Royal LePage Coronation West, this five-bedroom, four-bathroom home sold in just 26 days. Sitting on a corner lot with inlet views, it has been updated from top to bottom. Some of the new features include new windows and sliding doors, a new kitchen and a new master bedroom ensuite. Vaulted ceilings, a large balcony overlooking the water and a wood-burning fireplace give this space rare features seldom found in this price range. A one-bedroom suite in the basement with its own fireplace and walk out to the yard is rented for $750 per month and makes a great mortgage helper. **RYAN DELUCA**

METRO CUSTOM PUBLISHING CONNECT

A PERFECT CONNECTION

So here's the story. Given the soaring real estate prices in the Lower Mainland, the developer of Connect and the bank have come together with an incredible offer. You can actually own a home at Connect for only $199 per month for three full years.

Great location, excellent floor plans, and incredible price points; it's not often you find those three assets in one place. However, that is exactly what potential buyers of Connect can look forward to.

Situated in the heart of Surrey Central, Connect is within walking distance to Simon Fraser University, a SkyTrain station, plenty of malls and shops, as well as countless other amenities.

"If you're in proximity to all those things, you're looking at a 15 per cent increase in value over time to surrounding properties," says Vince Taylor, a partner with Pilothouse Real Estate, the firm that designed Connect. "This is designed for people to walk to school and to walk to work."

Inside, buyers will find stainless steel, granite, and gas stoves, along with some of the best designed floor plans possible. Using what Taylor calls "flex-space," Connect's homes make the most of every square inch.

CONTRIBUTED

"The idea of using a space for more than one purpose is really where the idea of flex-space came from," says Taylor. "Just because your lifestyle changes, you shouldn't have to move — your home should adapt with you."

Even with an amazing location and exquisitely designed units, the fact that Connect's pricing starts at just $199 per month makes it the most appetizing. With affordability like that, it's perfect for first-time buyers and investors.

"We've done our homework, and we were so impressed with the opportunity here to deliver a product that was fundamentally sound, that was beautifully designed, and, best of all, affordable," says Taylor.

Connect is open now and will be offered for sale in May, and when it does buyers will need to act fast because they are not expected to last long. Interest has been off the charts, as more than 1,000 groups have already been through the presentation centre.

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The presentation centre and showhome at 13260 Old Yale Rd. is open daily with the exception of Friday. To see what all of the excitement is about, click to connectliving.ca.

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THREE BEDROOMS	1,236	$567,900
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LIFE AT THE CENTRE

VICEROY IN NEW WESTMINSTER

Just one look at Viceroy, Bosa Properties' and BlueSky Properties' new development, and one can understand why the project has been extremely popular. The stunning highrise and boutique four-storey concrete low-rise combines elegant living in a great location at an affordable price. Situated in beautiful New Westminster, Viceroy is close to downtown, the airport and just a short jaunt to the U.S. border.

"Within New Westminster it's uptown, you have every convenience right outside your door — you don't need to get into your car. Every bank you can think of is within two blocks — Safeway, London Drugs — it's just a really great location," says Madonna Avitan, Viceroy sales manager.

Viceroy features underground parking, a garden courtyard, gym and entertainment lounge. Soaring above the New Westminster skyline, Viceroy boasts gorgeous views towards SFU Mountain, Queens Park, the Fraser River and even Vancouver Island in the distance.

Built to suit a variety of homeowners, Viceroy offers one bedrooms to three bedrooms and everything in between, including townhomes. It's perfect for people who are looking for more space and want to be right in the centre of the Lower Mainland.

"Our homeowners are coming from downtown, Burnaby, North Shore, Coquitlam and Surrey," says Avitan. "They're starting to look ahead at the tolls on the new bridge and with the escalating price of gas, this location is very desirable. There has also been a market for people who already live in the area and are looking to downsize. We have a lot of seniors in the area and they would be able to stay in their neighbourhood with their friends, their doctor, and all the places they habitually go."

Homes start at just $289,900 for a 682-square-foot one bedroom. Two-bedroom homes start at 830 square feet with prices as low as $390,900. For those looking for more space, three-bedroom units boasting 1,236 square feet sell for just $567,900. At 70 per cent sold, you better get in today before it's too late.

Viceroy's Presentation Centre and display home is located at 609 Belmont St. in Uptown New Westminster, open from noon to 5 p.m. daily or call 604-522-2583, or visit liveatviceroy.com.

Thank science for innovative home decor

A designer's delight. The latest synthetic materials are strong, malleable, lightweight and take colour easily —perfect for the home

Next time you're having a backyard barbecue or going mod with some new furniture, thank science.

Your salad spinner is made of the same sort of silicone rubber developed to make Neil Armstrong's moon boots. And those acrylic salad bowls and patio chairs? Second World War fighter pilots needed safer canopies and Plexiglas was the answer.

Manufacturers of home goods are quick to adopt innovative materials and technology, and synthetics have long been a favourite. The newest ones are a designer's delight: they're malleable, strong, lightweight and take colour easily.

From a crafting standpoint, acrylics are easy to work with. Using heat, they can be stretched and moulded without losing clarity, and joints are heat fused rather than glued or screwed, which makes a finished piece virtually seamless.

Larry Abel and Raymond McCallister, designers for Palm Springs, Calif., run Art Style Innovation, a fun factory of whimsical takes on vintage and modern decor such as curvy acrylic vases and rippled bowls in neon hues.

Their playful acrylic bookends come in a variety of silhouettes including cats, roosters, dogs, flowers, and even a pair of shapely female legs. You'll find clear acrylic cube tables, too, in modern takes on classic architectural design (artstyleinnovation.com, $35 and up).

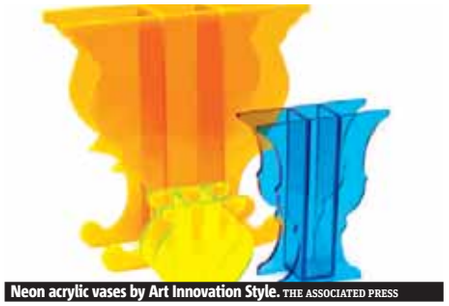
Clear acrylic material works well in small spaces — entryways, boudoirs, small living rooms — because it's nearly invisible. Designer Benjamin Noriega-Ortiz likes to use a milky-white acrylic for an ethereal quality (plexicraft.com).

Italian design powerhouse Kartell has frequently dominated the synthetic materials marketplace with "wow" factor pieces such as Philippe Starck's Louis Ghost chair and Ferruccio Laviani's Bourgie lamp. There's a range of colourful transparent pieces in the company's collection (allmodern.com, from $73).

Kartell also has manufactured Starck's Bubble chair, a cartoonishly scaled piece that looks like an oversize upholstered chair but is made entirely out of polyethylene. It will survive indoors or out, and comes in several shades (allmodern.com, $680).

San Francisco-based Bkr makes a glass water bottle with a silicone sleeve in hip shades like jet black, rocket red, julep teal and space indigo. Bkr donates to cancer research as well as clean water projects in Africa (mybkr.com, $28).

Lifefactory goes one step further in the category with not only an adult bottle, but baby bottles and sippy cups. The collection comes in cheerful hues like lemon, raspberry, lilac and spring green (lifefactory.com, $14.99 and up). THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Neon acrylic vases by Art Innovation Style. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Colourful La Marie chairs by Kartell. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

No more boring basics

There was a time when kitchen cupboards and drawers were full of boring basic colours. But today's cook has a paintbox of hues available when buying mixing bowls, cooking tools and utensils.

- Whether it's a Kitchenaid blender in hot pink or a set of Rachael Ray's sunny-orange cookware, there's more colour in functional, synthetic-material gadgets than ever before.
- Flexible silicone has fans in fashion, where accessory designers love its pliability, colour friendliness and soft feel. The same characteristics make it big with kitchen and home designers, who also appreciate that it's dishwasher-friendly. Sky-blue spatulas, tangerine whisks — just about any kitchen tool can be found in a fun, friendly hue.

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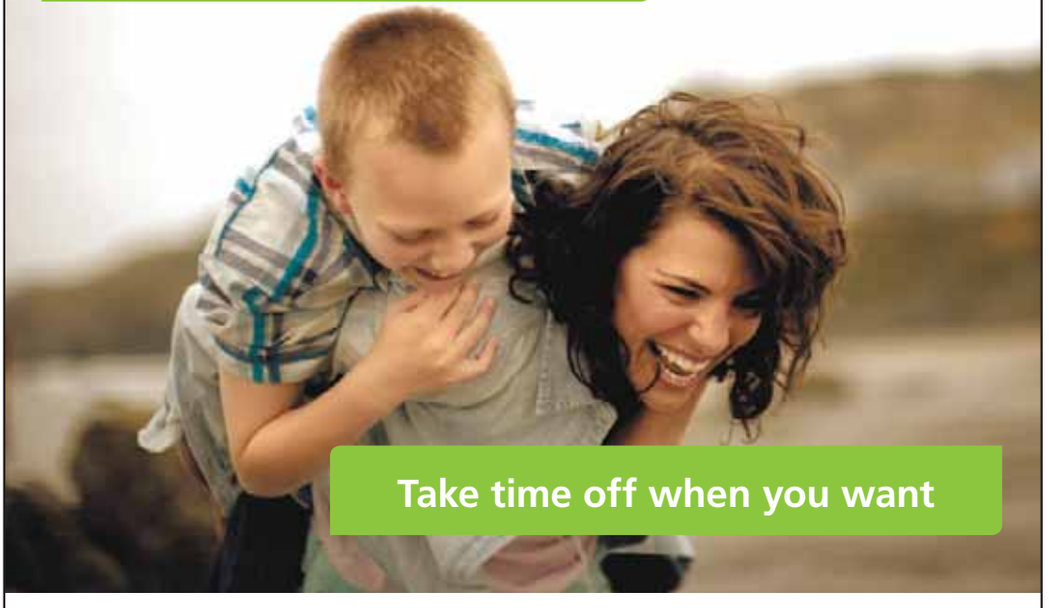

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Transport yourself to Thailand with exotic flavours & fragrances

Red-Curry Chicken Noodles

This recipe serves four. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

It's red, but it isn't red hot. And that's why red-curry paste is the sort of curry the average Canadian is going to love.

Curry pastes — which are used in Thai, Indonesian, Malaysian and Indian cooking — combine dry spices with ground fresh herbs and roots, garlic, chilies and other ingredients to form thick pastes. These often are classified by colour.

Green-curry paste, for example, is a fiery Thai blend that combines green chilies, lemon grass, garlic, shrimp paste and kaffir lime leaves. It usually is blended with coconut milk to season beef, pork and chicken.

Yellow-curry paste is a bit milder and usually sports garlic, lemon grass, galangal, cumin, cinnamon and turmeric. It's popular for adding to soups.

But the most versatile and widely used is red-curry paste, a mash of red chilies, coriander roots and leaves, shrimp paste, lemon grass, garlic, shallots and galangal.

It's got some kick, but it won't sear your mouth. It's used with everything from chicken, duck and beef to pork and shrimp. And it lands in everything from stews, curries and soups to dressings, marinades and condiments.

Conveniently, red-curry paste also is the easiest variety to find at the local grocer. It usually is packed in small glass jars or cans and can be found in the Asian section. Once opened, the remainder can be refrigerated for months.

Here, it's used to make Red Curry Chicken Noodles.

Ingredients

- 12-oz package fresh fettuccine pasta
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 large yellow onion, diced
- 1 red bell pepper, cored and diced
- 14-oz can coconut milk
- 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 tbsp red curry paste (more or less to taste)
- Meat from a 1 1/2-lb. rotisserie chicken
- 1/3 cup chopped fresh cilantro
- 1 lime, quartered

1. Bring saucepan of salted water to a boil. Add the pasta and cook according to package directions. Drain and set aside.

2. Meanwhile, in a large sauté pan over medium-high, heat the olive oil. Add the onion and bell pepper, then sauté until tender, about 10 minutes. Add the coconut milk and red curry paste. Stir until the curry paste and coconut milk are smooth, then bring to a simmer.

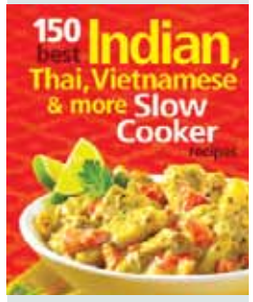
3. Chop or pull the chicken meat into bite-size chunks, then add to the coconut milk mixture. Toss well to coat evenly. If the meat is cold, return to a simmer. Stir in the cilantro.

4. Serve the pasta topped with the chicken. Alternatively, add the drained pasta to the pan with the chicken and toss to mix. Just before serving, squeeze a bit of lime juice over each plate.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cookbook of the Week

150 Best Indian, Thai, Vietnamese & More Slow Cooker Recipes



Slow cookers and curries go well together, and that's the idea behind Sunil Vijayakar's latest book.

The release boasts recipes with ingredients you'll easily find at your local grocer. There are also creative twists on accompaniments along with slow cooker know-how such as preparing various types of food for the slow cooker.

Among the recipes are Bangkok Sour Pork Curry, Sticky Jasmine Rice, Spiced Prawn and Pineapple Curry, Creamy Spinach and Tomato Dhal, and more. METRO

Potatoes and chickpeas see red – curry paste that is

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On busy weeknights, we take our dinner shortcuts wherever we can find them. But this doesn't require sacrificing healthy home cooking.

Make smart choices — as in this recipe for red curry potatoes and chickpeas — and you can have a great from-scratch dinner on the table in under 30 minutes.

To make the meal even more substantial (and to stretch it to feed six people), add the meat from a rotisserie chicken at the same time as the potatoes.

1. In a microwave-safe bowl, combine potatoes and water. Microwave on High for about 5 minutes or until potatoes are almost cooked.

2. Meanwhile, in a large dry skillet set over medium heat; toast cumin and cinnamon for 1 minute. Add coconut milk and curry paste, then bring to a simmer.

3. Add chickpeas and red onion, and return to a simmer.

This recipe serves four. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

4. Add potatoes to pan and toss to combine. Cover and reduce heat to low; simmer for 12 minutes.

5. Stir in the cilantro, vinegar, salt and pepper. Sprinkle with green onions to serve.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ ADAPTED BY EMILY RICHARDS, PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR, TV CELEBRITY CHEF (FOR MORE, VISIT EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA)

Ingredients

- 3 large Yukon gold potatoes, cut into 2.5-cm (1-inch) chunks
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) water
- 5 ml (1 tsp) each ground cumin and cinnamon
- 1 can (398 ml/14 oz) coconut milk
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) Thai red curry paste
- 1 can (540 ml/19 oz) chickpeas, drained
- 1 small red onion, thinly sliced
- 60 ml (1/4 cup) chopped fresh cilantro
- 5 ml (1 tsp) cider or white vinegar
- Pinch each salt and ground black pepper
- 2 green onions, chopped

Tennis

Raonic advances in Barcelona

Canadian Milos Raonic defeated Russian Igor Andreev 6-4, 6-1 on Wednesday to reach the third round at the Barcelona Open.

The 11th seed from Thornhill, Ont., who often trains in the Catalan capital during the season, advances to meet sixth-seeded Spaniard Nicolas Almagro on Thursday.

"I feel my level improved a lot between my first match and this one," said Raonic. "I'm hitting the ball better and feeling well on the court."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLB

Orioles continue to dominate Blue Jays

Jason Hammel pitched seven innings of four-hit ball, Wilson Betemit and Chris Davis homered, and the Baltimore Orioles blanked the Toronto Blue Jays 3-0 Wednesday night.

After limiting Toronto to one run on Tuesday, Baltimore became the first team this season to shut out the Blue Jays. The Orioles are 4-1 against Toronto after going 6-12 last year.

Hammel (3-0) struck out seven and walked one in lowering his ERA to 1.73 over four starts.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto's Eric Thames watches Chris Davis' home run in Baltimore on Wednesday.
PATRICK SEMANSKY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Capitals forward Mike Knuble celebrates teammate Joel Ward's overtime goal in Boston on Wednesday night. ELISE AMENDOLA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Caps put an end to Bruins' cup reign

NHL. Washington advances to second round by eliminating defending champs in Boston

This year, the Washington Capitals appear to have saved their best for the post-season.

Joel Ward slammed home a rebound at 2:57 of overtime to give Washington a 2-1 victory over Boston in Game 7 of their first-round playoff series Wednesday night, sending the Capitals to the Eastern Conference semifinals and ending the defending Stanley Cup champion Bruins' hopes of a repeat.

Rookie Braden Holtby stopped 31 shots for Washington in the seventh one-goal game of the series. Matt Hendricks also scored for the Capitals, who barely made the playoffs this year after finishing atop the Eastern Conference in each of the previous two seasons — and winning just one post-season series combined.

"It's a nice sense of accomplishment to be able to get over the hump," Capitals defenceman Karl Alzner said. "It's nice to turn the page, and maybe we're writing a new script."

Tim Thomas made 26 saves for Boston, which was hoping to become the first team to repeat as Stanley Cup champions since the Detroit Red Wings in 1997-98. Tyler Seguin scored the Bruins' only goal.

Game 7

Capitals	Bruins
2	1

Thomas, the reigning Vezina and Conn Smythe Trophy winner, gave Holtby a tap on the shoulder and said, "Great job, kid."

"I'm proud of our team against the defending Stanley Cup champs," said Holtby, a third-stringer making his playoff debut because of injuries to Tomas Vokoun and Michal Neuvirth. "I don't get rattled. It's one of the things I learned: To be able to get to this level you have to be like that."

It was the first time in NHL history that a playoff series had seven games determined by one goal. Four of the games went to overtime, and two others were decided with less than two minutes left in regulation.

"It was very close," Boston defenceman Zdeno Chara said. "We shouldn't be disappointed in what we did this season. We just came up short."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NFL. Trio of Canadians expected to be drafted

The NFL is projecting a banner draft for Canadian football.

The league listed three Canadians being selected in 2012 in a mock draft posted on its website Wednesday. That would be the most Canadians taken in one NFL draft.

This year's draft will be held over three days starting Thursday night.

According to the mock draft, Toronto native Philip Blake, a six-foot-three, 320-pound centre at Baylor, will be the first Canadian selected. He's projected to go in the third round, 82nd overall, to the Tennessee Titans.

Tyrone Crawford, a six-foot-four, 276-pound defensive lineman with Boise State, was projected to go in the fourth round, No. 97 overall, to the Indianapolis Colts.

Later in the round, at No. 115, the draft has the Titans selecting Akiem Hicks, a defensive lineman from the University of Regina. Hicks, a native of Elk Grove, Calif., had originally enrolled at LSU after the '08 season but never played for the Tigers after getting caught in a recruiting scandal.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NFL

Johnson to grace Madden cover

Detroit Lions wide receiver Calvin Johnson has been selected to appear on the cover of Madden NFL '13, the popular video game, in a vote by fans.

Johnson beat out Carolina Panthers quarterback Cam Newton, the NFL offensive rookie of the year, by garnering 52 per cent of the more than 651,000 votes cast in the competition between the two playmakers. ESPN revealed the results live on its SportsNation show Wednesday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Curling. Canada 5-0 with 2 wins from Eberle, Hicke

Canada remains unbeaten at the world mixed doubles curling championship after a pair of wins Wednesday in Erzurum, Turkey.

Chantelle Eberle and Dean Hicke of Regina led Canada to a 9-3 win over Slovakia while also cruising by Turkey 8-3.

"I think they play well for only having curled for a few years," Eberle said of the host team. "I don't know what the coaching is like here, but in two years that's pretty good. We've been curling for some 20 years."

The victories leave Canada atop the Red Group at 5-0.

China, which trails Canada at 3-0, dumped France 9-3 and will take on Eberle and Hicke on Thursday.

There are 27 teams competing at the event. Teams are divided into three round-robin groups — red, blue and yellow.

Round-robin play continues through Saturday.

Quarter-finals, semifinals and medal games will be played Sunday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

4 SPORTS

Quoted

"It's really very serious stuff and it does take in account the fact that the perpetrator is who he is and has the record that he has."

NBA commissioner David Stern, who on Wednesday said the elbow that Metta World Peace used to give James Harden a concussion was "recklessly thrown" and the Los Angeles Lakers forward's history absolutely weighed into the seven-game suspension. World Peace, who changed his name from Ron Artest, received an 86-game suspension in 2004 — the longest ban for an on-court incident in NBA history — for jumping into the stands at the Palace of Auburn Hills in the Detroit suburbs to fight fans.

NHL awards

Lundqvist headlines Vezina finalists

Henrik Lundqvist of the New York Rangers, Jonathan Quick of the Los Angeles Kings and Pekka Rinne of the Nashville Predators are the finalists for the NHL's Vezina Trophy for best goaltender. The league announced the finalists Wednesday. The winner will be announced June 20 at the NHL awards ceremony in Las Vegas.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the web

The role of the closer typically comes with a pay bump in the bullpen, but could it also be considered danger pay? Getting the final three outs is taking its toll as seven closers have spent time on the disabled list already in the young MLB season. Scan the code for the story.

LeBron says Heat have moved past growing pains

NBA. Miami star 'has no problem taking over games now' as Heat prepare for playoffs

A year ago, it was all different. LeBron James calls it a transition phase, one where he was wrapped up in figuring out how his game was going to mesh with Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh in Miami.

The way James sees it, the Heat growing pains are gone. And he hopes that means his annual championship quest will finally be fulfilled.

Driven by last season's loss to Dallas in the NBA finals — a series where he made seven field-goal attempts in 68 fourth-quarter minutes — James and the Heat return to the post-season as the No. 2 seed on the Eastern Conference bracket. Their first-round opponent is still not determined. Their ultimate goal was determined long ago.

Quoted

"The No. 1 goal is the playoffs and each game and working our habits."

LeBron James, Miami Heat forward

"I have to be who I am," James said in an interview with The Associated Press. "Last year was the biggest teacher. The greatest teacher in life is experience. And I had that last year. I'm back to being the person who can take over games."

Here's an example: In one recent game, Wade was walking to the bench for a time-out. Halfway there, he was met by James. For the next 45 seconds, James was in his teammate's ear about something. He did all the talking. Wade did all the nodding.

"Obviously, last year we kind of got cheated a little bit out of the greatness of LeBron as a vocal leader," Wade said. "He had so much going on, so much in his mind that he was just trying to show everybody with his play and his toughness.

"But this year, especially of late, we've all been getting the vocal player, the intelligent player that LeBron is. His IQ of the game is second to none. So you listen." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Second Spanish soccer giant knocked out

Cristiano Ronaldo of Real Madrid reacts during a penalty shootout during the Champions League semifinal Wednesday in Madrid. Ronaldo had his penalty saved and Bayern Munich beat Real Madrid 3-1 on penalties to secure its place against Chelsea in the Champions League final following a memorable contest between the longtime European rivals. JASPER JUINEN/GETTY IMAGES

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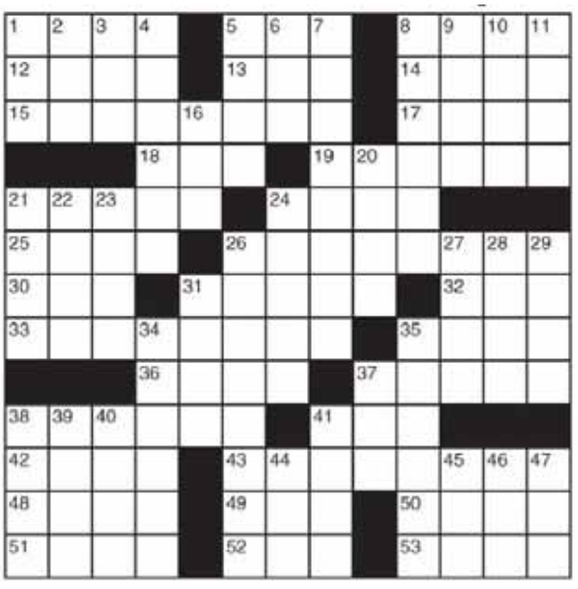
42 Particular
43 Seder time
48 Daytime drama
49 Baltimore newspaper
50 Tablet
51 Agile
52 Small lizard
53 Sweet potatoes

Down

1 Hiatus
2 Ms. Gardner
3 Part of UCLA
4 Response
5 Laugh-a-minute
6 Scull tool
7 Filled with zeal
8 Polish port city
9 "— Misbehavin' "
10 Staff member?
11 Grating
16 Wrestling victory
20 Abbr. on old Asian maps
21 React in horror
22 Notion
23 Cisterns
24 Wee Scot
26 Slippage, to an anatomist
27 Cooperation barriers
28 Bigfoot's cousin
29 Spotted
31 Clone
34 Covering hardly anything
35 Awning
37 Derek and Diddley
38 "— Congeniality"
39 On
40 Bring up
41 "— It Romantic?"
44 Wiedersehen preceder
45 By way of
46 Freddy's street
47 Literary monogram



Sudoku

			4				7	3
3	2				8			
8				9			2	4
	6			8		4		
2								9
		1		7			5	
9	8			6				7
			2				8	1
1	5				9			

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's Sudoku

6	5	1	2	9	8	4	7	3
4	3	8	7	6	1	9	5	2
9	7	2	4	3	5	6	8	1
5	1	4	6	8	3	2	9	7
7	8	6	9	1	2	5	3	4
3	2	9	5	4	7	8	1	6
1	4	3	8	2	9	7	6	5
8	6	7	3	5	4	1	2	9
2	9	5	1	7	6	3	4	8

Yesterday's Crossword

Cryptoquip

This is a substitution cipher where one letter stands for another. Eg: If X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle.

MXCS KCQKIC BFC VEFYHSD QS B FQIICF VQBYLCF, VQEIN RQE YBR LXCR'FC YMCBFHSD EK BSN NQMS?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SHOULD A COMIC BOOK ABOUT SOME SUPER-POTENT BAKING STUFF GET TITLED "THE FANTASTIC FLOUR"?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals P

How to play

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Today 11°/7° Showers 70%
Friday 11°/7° Showers 40%
Know what the weather will be 14 days from now.
Check the 14 day trend
TWN incorporates MSC data

Horoscope

Aries | March 21 - April 20. Any doubts you have about a financial deal come from your subconscious mind, which is trying to warn you not to get involved.

Taurus | April 21 - May 21. Common sense should tell you to be cautious today but as common sense is currently in limited supply, you probably won't listen.

Gemini | May 22 - June 20. You may be tempted to spend the day in your own private little bubble but let loved ones know.

Cancer | June 21 - July 22. Others will take what you say very seriously, even though to you it may be nothing more than a bit of fun.

Leo | July 23 - Aug. 22. Your imagination could get you into trouble today, especially on the work front.

Virgo | Aug. 23 - Sept. 22. Don't let anyone persuade you that you need to cut back on the many tasks you have set yourself.

Libra | Sept. 23 - Oct. 22. Avoid signing up for group projects. You will do better soldiering on alone, at least for now.

Scorpio | Oct. 23 - Nov. 21. Some people will be difficult to get along with today, not least because they are unsure of all the changes going on in your shared environment.

Sagittarius | Nov. 22 - Dec. 21. You may believe the best way to solve a problem is to scrap everything but that would be a waste of the time you have already invested.

Capricorn | Dec. 22 - Jan 20. You can no longer deny that you have been playing a role with which you no longer feel comfortable.

Aquarius | Jan. 21 - Feb 18. There will be disruption on the home front today, caused by a loved one's sense of grievance.

Pisces | Feb. 19 - March 20. If there is something important you need to say, make sure you choose your words carefully. Get to the point quickly too. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Caption Contest

"Don't worry, my bark is worse than my Battu!"
Jared

CHARLIE NEIBERGALL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Win!

You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image above and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.

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BLAH HURT NUMB ANGRY ANXIOUS DOWN NOT myself TODAY
EVER HAVE DAYS WHEN YOU DON'T FEEL LIKE YOURSELF?
Find out why paying attention to those feelings is an important part of dealing with your mental health, and why mental health in Canada must change.
partnersformentalhealth
TAKE THE PLEDGE AT NOTMYSELFTODAY.CA

Jewellery Close-Out Sale!

All jewellery priced at below wholesale

Gold jewellery from $20.00 and up!

Our huge selection is price guaranteed to beat any advertised price. All our jewellery would be priced 50% to 70% higher at other stores. Now with an additional 35% off of our every day low prices.

18kt yellow gold ring with cushion shaped flat topped blood stone (heliotrope), 19.6 grams
Appraisal value: $2,400.00
J&M Regular Price $1,219.00
J&M Sale Price $793.00

14kt gold ring with 7.0 mm Akoya cultured pearl surrounded by 15 diamonds (0.23cttw), 3.2 grams
Appraisal value: $1,300.00
J&M Regular Price $379.00
J&M Sale Price $247.00

14kt yellow gold dangling earrings set with cubic zircons, 3.36 grams
J&M Regular Price $139.00
J&M Sale Price $90.00

14kt yellow gold ring with triangular cabochon cut ritulated quartz accented by 8 diamonds (0.12 cttw), 13.8 grams
Appraisal value: $2,000.00
J&M Regular Price $635.00
J&M Sale Price $413.00

14kt white gold slide pendant featuring 5 princess cut diamonds (0.64 cttw) surrounded by 29 full-cut diamonds (0.36 cttw) with 14kt white gold 18" modified fox tail link chain, 9.1 grams
Appraisal value: $2,600.00
J&M Regular Price $1,099.00
J&M Sale Price $715.00

18kt white gold bracelet, polished finishing, chess-style diamond cut pattern links, 18.21 grams
J&M Regular Price $1,490.00
J&M Sale Price $968.00

14kt gold bracelet with 36 diamonds (1.08 cttw)
Appraisal value: $6,200.00
J&M Regular Price $2,789.00
J&M Sale Price $1,812.00

Ladies' 14kt yellow gold dual strand rope style bracelet with five faceted amethysts (4.12 cttw), 11.6 grams
Appraisal value: $1,850.00
J&M Regular Price $759.00
J&M Sale Price $494.00

Pair of vintage dress clips with 4.6 cttw baguette and round diamonds
Appraisal value: $17,800.00
J&M Regular Price $8,495.00
J&M Sale Price $6,496.00

14kt two-toned mens' wedding band, 7.3 grams
J&M Regular Price $473.00
J&M Sale Price $377.00

18kt yellow gold ring inlaid with natural placer gold nuggeds and three full cut diamonds on a diagonal white gold plate (0.09 cttw), 7.1 grams
Appraisal value: $1,250.00
J&M Regular Price $689.00
J&M Sale Price $448.00

One of the largest selections of rings, earrings, chains and other jewellery, all at every day low prices, with 20% additional savings for a compounded saving!

Ladies' 14kt rose gold ring featuring a 25.0/18.0mm cabochon cut aventurine quartz surrounded by tree rows of twisted wire detailing, 13.3 grams
Appraisal value: $1,350.00
J&M Regular Price $659.00
J&M Sale Price $429.00

.950 platinum band, 4.69 grams
J&M Regular Price $565.00
J&M Sale Price $365.00

Dare to compare!
We checked out the competition at mall stores and our every day prices are *still* better than their sale prices!

1.36 gram chain purchased on sale December 30, 2011, for $125.00
J&M every-day price for the same item on that day was $60.93
You would have saved $64.07

1.26 gram chain purchased on sale January 4, 2012, for $128.00
J&M every-day price for the same item on that day $79.13
You would have saved $48.87

J&M Price Comparison

10kt yellow gold Singapore link 18" chain, 0.98 grams
J&M Regular Price $48.00
J&M Sale Price $37.80

Probably the largest jewellery close-out sale ever in the Lower Mainland!

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